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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

PARLIAMENT has assembled, and all eyes will now look to its discussions with interest the most intense. Despite important Law Reforms and other momentous questions shadowed forth in the Speech from the Throne, the most serious debates will turn upon the civil war in America and the effect of the blockade of the Southern ports upon the working population of Lancashire. It was only twelve or fifteen months ago that newspapers were boasting of the astoundingly rapid development and almost fabulous wealth of that county. Now we have jeremiads over the utter stagnation of trade and the suffering condition of the labouring class. Accounts are somewhat conflicting, as they are wont to be on such occasions. Mr. Bright, at the anniversary dinner of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, declared that as yet the operatives had not exhausted their savings, and that their condition was far more satisfactory and hopeful than it had been painted. "There was also," he said, "great wealth and great liberality, and an almost incalculable amount of property, which might be called upon in case of extremity to assist the suffering." A gentleman, from whose pen appears, in all the dignity of large type, a very long letter in the *Times* of Wednesday, gives a very dissimilar account to that of Mr. Bright. According to the view of the writer under the signature of "S.," thousands of families have exhausted the last savings of years of toil; household goods have gone for bread, and hunger is reducing the hitherto sturdy and independent workman into the sad and exigent pauper. Even suppose this statement not to be an exaggeration (and we think it is so), still it is most gratifying to hear from Mr. Bright, who lives among, knows, and employs them, that the working men of Lancashire do not wish our Government to violate the strict neutrality they have hitherto so cautiously exercised. The usual laws of international

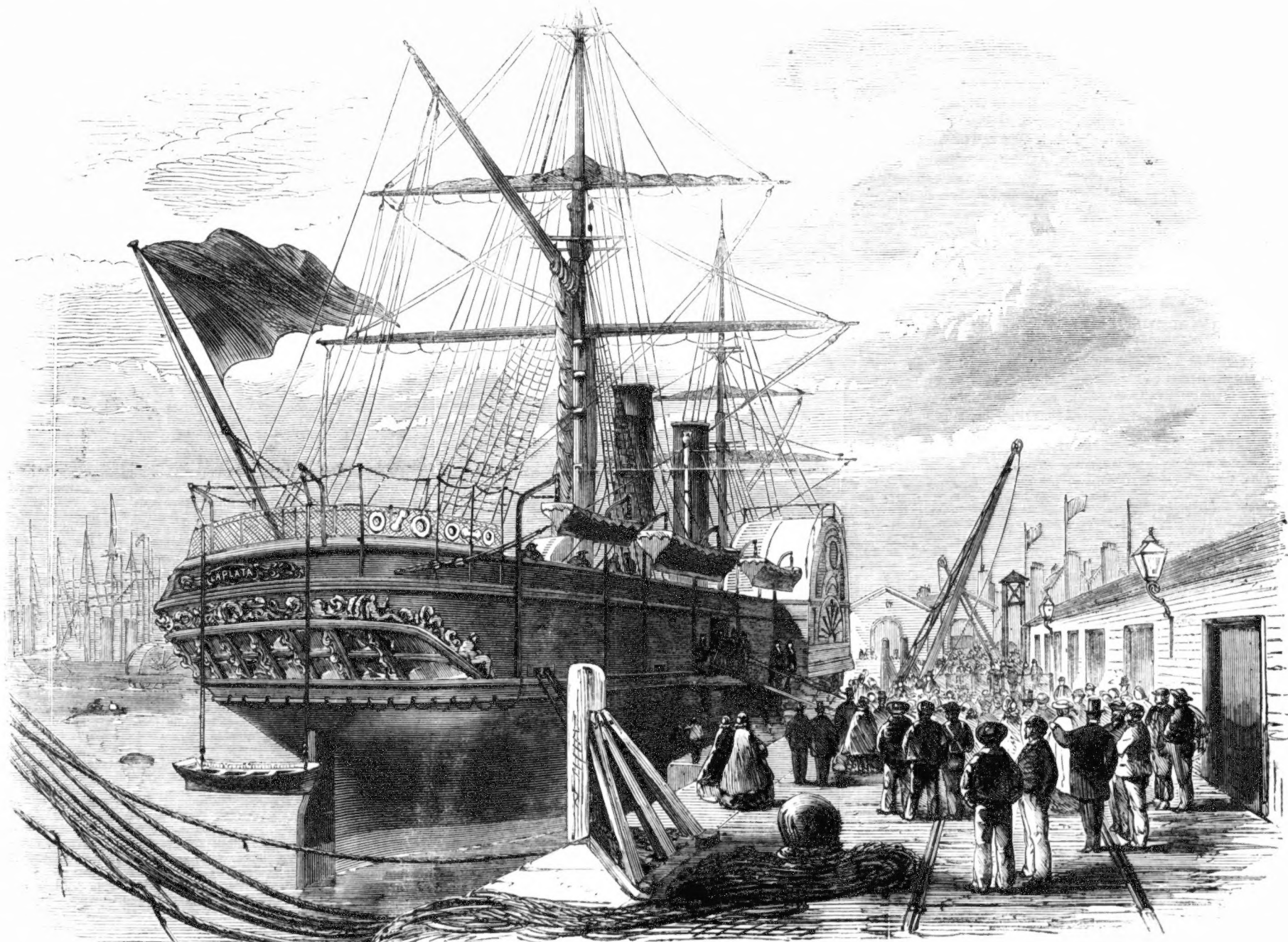
politics are not to be violated because a district or a class may suffer ever so severely. It is very lamentable that any of the operatives of the north, laborious, ingenious, and intelligent men ready and willing to work when work is to be had, should now be suffering, or should hereafter suffer; but it would be a greater evil still if the principles which are the very foundation of all civilisation should be undermined to meet the pressure of a social difficulty at home. The rich potentates of Lancashire, who have made their millions by the industry and toil of those now thrown out of employment, should exert themselves and indulge their liberality on a grand and comprehensive scale where it is needed. The eyes of the world will be upon them.

In the early part of the week news reached us that the Federals had gained a victory over the Confederates in Kentucky, and the intelligence has since been confirmed. We have not yet had full particulars or heard both sides of the story—a somewhat necessary proceeding with the accounts of American victories. The battle is said to have raged from six in the morning until dark, when the whole Confederate force were driven in confusion to their camp. The vanquished are said to have lost two hundred and seventy-five men. The loss of the victors was heavy.

From Canada we hear of the active preparations which were immediately and promptly made for war at the time when it was doubtful how the American Government would act as to the surrender of Messrs. Mason and Slidell. Nothing could have been more gratifying to Englishmen than to find how loyal and devoted is this great colony, once by our own misrule so much alienated from us. The difficulty with our Transatlantic cousins will hereafter be found to have been most beneficial to Canada and to England. We now find noble Lords lecturing, and members of Parliament and merchant

princes banding together to form associations for carrying out great national works of commercial enterprise.

If any faith may be reposed in certain rumours from the Continent, which were repeated in a seemingly authoritative tone by the *Morning Post* on Tuesday, affairs in Mexico are having an unexpected development. The subversion of the Mexican Republic, the inauguration of a monarchy, and the installation of the Archduke Maximilian of Austria as King, with a guarantee of support for ten years by the intervening Powers: these are the measures said to be now contemplated by France and Spain, and assented to by the Cabinet of St. James's. We trust that, if it be true that such designs are entertained at all, our Government has only given a reluctant and conditional consent to their execution, and that special care has been taken to guard the rights of the Mexican people from infringement. It was England, when her foreign policy was directed by the great George Canning, which called the South American republics into existence; and it is difficult to believe that Lords Palmerston and Russell will lend themselves to the subversion of any of the Governments so formed except it be done by the free, voluntary, and unbiassed choice of the peoples themselves. In making these remarks we are not to be understood as advocating Republicanism versus Monarchy; all we contend for at present is the right of the Mexicans to have a voice in the settlement of their own affairs, and to live, if they prefer it, under the rule of a President of their own choosing rather than under that of a King forced upon them by others. At all events, there seems no reason why Great Britain should lend herself to the aggrandisement of the Hapsburg or any other dynasty. The existing Government in Mexico may be bad, it may be oppressive to the people it rules, it may be an obstacle in the way of developing the resources of a country richly endowed by



LANDING OF MESSRS. MASON AND SLIDELL FROM LA PLATA AT SOUTHAMPTON.—(FROM A SKETCH BY F. BRANNON.)

Nature, and it may be faithless in its dealings with the external world; but surely, though we may admit the right of England, France, and Spain to take measures for correcting the last of these faults, the rectification of the others is a matter that pertains only to the Mexicans themselves. Besides, it had internal government, or what foreign Cabinets may choose to think such, is to be a reason for intervention in the affairs of nations, which of the Powers that have troops or ships on Mexican soil or in Mexican waters is altogether immaculate in this respect, or perfectly safe from foreign interference on such a pretence? Is Spain, is France, is even Great Britain herself, so utterly blameless as to be entitled to play the Pharisee or to throw stones at her neighbours? It is a very prevalent idea in England that the internal administration of neither France nor Spain is quite what it should be, and probably the Rulers of those countries, as well as the Emperors of Austria and Russia, may think that Great Britain is governed upon exceedingly faulty principles indeed. What right, then, have we, or France, or Spain, to upset the existing form of government in Mexico, to impose—really by force, whatever colour may be given to the act—upon that country a monarchy instead of a republic, and, above all, to place upon the throne a member of the most despotic and tyrannical race of Sovereigns in the world? If the allied Powers confine themselves to obtaining redress for the wrongs inflicted upon their subjects by the Mexican Government, together with guarantees for the faithful execution of treaty and other obligations, there can be nothing to object to; but if they proceed to measures which we cannot see that they have any right to adopt, we must enter our decided protest, and we hope that no long time will be allowed to elapse ere Lord Palmerston and Lord Russell will be called upon by Parliament for an explanation of at least their share in current events in South America, and to give the country a full statement of the whole aim and object of the Mexican expedition.

Mr. Milner Gibson has enjoyed a great and important ovation, which he richly merited. At the Freemasons' Tavern, on Tuesday, more than a hundred gentlemen of note and influence sat down to a sumptuous breakfast given in honour of the right hon. gentleman. A magnificent testimonial of candelabra and other plate was presented to him, and his health was proposed by Mr. Ewart, M.P. In Mr. Gibson's reply he did ample justice, not only to the unanimity of the Cabinet on the question of the paper duty, but he also awarded to Mr. Gladstone a large share of credit for having passed it through the House of Commons. Mr. Gibson is as a public man deservedly popular. Holding now for many years the most advanced "Manchester opinions," as they have been called, in the midst of the fiercest agitation he has always softened down the angularities and asperities of discussion by his bland and pleasant suavity of manner.

While on the subject of testimonials, we must not forget the immense success of the progress of that to Prince Albert. The London fund for the memorial to the late Prince Consort has now reached an amount little less than £30,000, and this sum has been mainly contributed by the nobility and the wealthy merchants of the metropolis. The country at large has still to respond to the call, and the exquisite lines of our Poet Laureate, added as a dedication prefixed to the last edition of "The Idylls of the King," and now published in the public prints, will add to the popularity of that appeal. The man must have no loyalty in his breast whose heart is not stirred by them. They are appropriate, simple, pathetic, and musical in the highest degree.

Large sums of money are being subscribed everywhere for the sufferers at Hartley. In Liverpool alone at the beginning of the week £2500 had been collected, and more contributions were flowing in. Truly we may boast of our English liberality of purse. Great riches have been given to us as a people, but there is no country in the world where an appeal to the feelings of the people will produce such liberal results.

THE LANDING OF THE CONFEDERATE COMMISSIONERS.

As we mentioned in our last, the Confederate Commissioners, Messrs. Mason and Slidell, accompanied by their secretaries, arrived at Southampton in the steamer *La Plata*, on Wednesday week, and immediately landed and proceeded to London, where Mr. Mason remains, while Mr. Slidell proceeded to France. There was no demonstration whatever when these gentlemen, whose capture in the Trent has been the subject of so much discussion, landed at Southampton, there being nothing more than the ordinary assemblage on the arrival of the mail-steamers. A moderate crowd, as is usual, was collected outside the barriers which are always placed till the specie and mails are landed. The Commissioners on descending the landing-steps were followed by two officers belonging to the dock, and at once stepped into the flys which were waiting for them at the end of the timber platform, upon which no horse-carriages are allowed.

Mr. Mason is rather tall and stout, of tolerably well-formed figure, full colour, and determined and severe expression of countenance. Mr. Slidell is a little shorter and stouter, with a round face, and white hair and beard.

A Boulogne paper, in noticing the arrival of Mr. Slidell in that town, says:—"Mr. Commissioner Slidell—that very expensive gentleman for England—arrived here by the Princess Maudo on Thursday last. The wretched weather prevented many of the habitual attendants being on the quay when the boat arrived, and those few who were there did not know that at least £1,000,000 worth was passing them in wet clothes and cold aspect. Mr. Slidell went direct to the station, and proceeded by the first train to Paris." Mr. and Mrs. Slidell are now in Paris.

THE PRINCE CONSORT MEMORIAL FUND.—The total amount received at the Mansion House up to Tuesday evening last in aid of the above fund was nearly £26,000. Amongst the subscriptions received on that day were—Lord Comorrie, £50; Earl Grey, £50; and the Marquis of Sligo, £50. Subscriptions for local memorials of the Prince are being made all over the country, and there can be no doubt that in a short time the kingdom will be studded with monuments to the memory of his late Royal Highness.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* gives an explicit denial to a statement made in a Brussels paper that Count Walewski had tendered to the French Upper Chamber, in the name of the Emperor, some assurances that the occupation of Rome was to be prolonged. In the first place, the *Moniteur* observes, no Minister having a portfolio speaks in the name of the Emperor. That duty belongs exclusively to the Ministers without portfolio. But in any case Count Walewski, the official organ announces, never made any statement to the effect which the Belgian journal described.

Reports of changes in the Ministry are again current at Paris, and both M. Thouvenel and M. de Persigny are mentioned as likely to go out. Speculation is rife as to the course the French Government will pursue with reference to the Roman question, after the direct-rebuff with which the overtures made by M. Thouvenel have been received by M. Antonelli and the Pope. It is generally believed that the French Government will shortly limit its protection of the Holy See to the occupation of Rome and its immediate vicinity, and allow the Piedmontese Government to draw its troops still closer round the Eternal City.

Despatches from Cochin China have been published announcing that Admiral Bonnard had taken the positions nearest to Bien-Hoa. This place, after an energetic resistance, causing the loss of a certain number of men, asked to capitulate. Admiral Bonnard very narrowly escaped being killed. It was proposed to march on Hué, the capital, as the taking of that place would pacify the country.

ITALY.

The inhabitants of Florence made an imposing demonstration on Monday against the Papal Government. The people traversed the streets with flags and bands of music, shouting "Rome as the capital of Italy!" "Down with the Pope-King!" "Long live Victor Emmanuel!" The crowd, under the impression that the French Government are favourable to their wishes, before dispersing paid a visit to the French Consulate. A similar demonstration took place at Parma on Tuesday. Shouts were raised of "Long live the Pope, but not the Pope-King!" "Victor Emmanuel for ever!"

The official *Gazette* of Turin publishes a letter from Sicily mentioning the arrest on the 18th ult., at Vizzino, in the circle of Caltavivone, of a Roman merchant named Settimio di Cavi, who, on his apartments being searched by the police, was found in possession of 175,000 percussion-caps and of a considerable number of papers of a treasonable nature, including a passport issued by the Papal Government and signed by the Legation of the ex-King Francis II. at Rome. The police next proceeded to seize five large boxes left by Di Cavi with a merchant of Caltavivone. These boxes were found to contain about 850,000 percussion-caps and a quantity of earrings, buttons, and shirt-pins, which, on account of their uniformity, are supposed to be tokens of recognition. Di Cavi is shortly to be tried by the proper authorities for these offences against the State.

It seems that the system of brigandage is still encouraged and fomented in the Roman territory. A band of 150, under the command of one Edward Kamer, has been dispatched thence to the Brindisi, and preparations were being made to effect a landing on the Neapolitan coast. The health of the Pope has improved.

SPAIN.

A Ministerial declaration was made on Wednesday in the Cortes to the effect that Spain was free from any engagement in regard to Mexican affairs, and that she would respect the freedom of the people to choose their own Government. The Ministry further declared that Spain would act in Mexico in concord with the other allied Powers.

PORTUGAL.

The news from Portugal represent the King as in good health, and Dom Augusto, his brother, as still improving. The Cortes had passed a bill enabling Dom Fernando to become Regent in case of necessity, but they had not entitled the two married Infantas to succeed to the throne. A telegram from Lisbon announces the launching of two war-steamers, which was accompanied with a popular demonstration.

AUSTRIA.

Respecting the presumed offer of the Crown of Mexico to the Archduke Maximilian, in exchange for Venetia, the *Angsbury Gazette*, after stating that not one inch of territory in Italy will be ceded by Austria, says:—"On this point M. de Schmerling shares the sentiments of Count Rechberg, and M. de Plener would not hesitate for a moment to decline all the treasures of California if they were to be the price of the cession of any portion of Austrian territory. The offer of the throne of Mexico will never be looked upon as an equivalent for the loss of the Adriatic. On this point all are agreed, and Austria will resist with a firmness which nothing can bend, happen what may."

A private letter from Vienna informs us that his Imperial Highness the Archduke Maximilian, who has been appointed by the Emperor to the command of the Austrian Navy, held a levee on Feb. 1, which was attended by all the Austrian naval officers actually at Vienna. The Prince informed them that the Navy was to be considerably increased and that all his care should be devoted to make it as perfect as possible, a task which required time and perseverance. The same letter adds that the Emperor will pay another visit to Verona in February to inspect the additional fortifications he ordered to be made there recently.

The sixth class of the Gymnasium at Cracow has been dissolved on account of an attempt against the life of Professor Hnelsebeck.

PRUSSIA.

The departure of the Crown Princess for London is fixed for the 10th inst., and, should the Prince of Wales not visit Berlin on his way to the East, her Royal Highness will meet him on her journey. The Crown Princess will embark for England at Calais, to which place the Royal saloon-carriage will run from Berlin.

The Prussian Chamber of Deputies have introduced this Session something of a novelty into Parliamentary arrangements. It appears that there will be no address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and thus a long, impassioned, and, as the Deputies think, unprofitable debate will be avoided. The Chamber considers it most suitable and advantageous to discuss the several topics of foreign and domestic policy as they present themselves in the regular progress of business. Opinions are greatly divided in Prussia upon the advantage of this course of procedure. A debate on the Address is unquestionably a delay to actual business; but a Parliamentary assembly does not simply mean a body of persons gathered together to pass specific measures. We doubt whether Prussian politics at present would not be the better for a good deal even of general discussion.

HANOVER.

The Chamber of Deputies of Hanover has just shown its independence of the Ministers. The Government having, by an ordinance, introduced a reform into the code of military penal procedure, the Chamber, on the motion of M. Rosching, decided, almost unanimously, that the Ministry should be requested to suspend the execution of the said reform, which was to come into force on the 1st of February.

RUSSIA.

The Russian Government has just published its Budget for the current financial year. According to this statement the revenue of the empire, arising from ordinary sources, amounts to 296,000,000 roubles; and from extraordinary sources—namely, from the loan of 1860—to 14,500,000 roubles. The ordinary expenditure is represented to be 294,000,000 roubles; and the extraordinary, 16,500,000 roubles.

The nobles of Russia continue opposed to the new order of things arising out of the emancipation of the serfs and the changes that have been introduced into the financial system. Their dissatisfaction has lately been expressed in several ways, and has called forth a kind of warning from the Government, in which the nobility are told that they must absolutely accept the new condition of affairs and assist the Government. The nobility also complain of the unpunctual payment by the peasants of their dues; these, they are informed, the Government have guaranteed, and will keep its word, but at the same time the transition requires time.

GREECE.

A Ministerial crisis has occurred in Greece, which still remains unsolved. M. Canaris, to whom the task of forming a new Government was committed, has failed in his endeavours.

A trial of some interest has just taken place in Athens—that of three sub-officers of cavalry on a charge of conspiring against the life of King Otho. This plot, it was alleged, was to have been carried into execution on the day of his Majesty's return from Germany. After a deliberation of an hour and a half, the Court pronounced a verdict of acquittal. The trial occupied two days.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

A conference has been held at the official residence of Aali Paşa between the representatives of the five great Powers, to take into consideration the present state of affairs in Syria. The Grand Vizier was present upon the occasion.

It is stated that a Turkish squadron will soon sail for Antivari, as a measure of precaution against the disembarkation of revolutionists at that point. This, it is believed, has reference to an apprehended expedition of Garibaldians; but it does not appear probable that any such movement is contemplated.

A letter from Circassia describes some severe encounters which have taken place recently near the Abasian territory between the Russians and the mountaineers, in all of which the former were attacked, routed, and driven back with considerable loss by the latter.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

One single Ministry for the two Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia has been formed, under the presidency of M. Barlo Catardji, who is also intrusted with the portfolio of the Ministry of the Interior.

The peasants in several villages, having been excited by revolutionary agitation, prepared to march on Bucharest. The Sub-Prefect, who wished to stop them, was killed by them, and the Procurator ill-treated. Prince Couza has dispatched troops to meet them and arrest their advance by force.

BUENOS AYRES.

We have intelligence from Buenos Ayres to the 30th of December. The success of General Mitre, both by sea and land, was almost complete. General Urquiza's squadron had been captured, and there was little doubt that the defeated General would quit the country. Most of the provinces had declared themselves in favour of Buenos Ayres, and the rest would in all likelihood follow. When this takes place General Mitre would convoke the country for the election of the ordinary Congress, and there was no doubt that General Mitre would be elected President of the Republic.

INDIA.

The tranquillity of our Indian empire at the date of our last advices remained undisturbed.

The exportation of saltpetre, except to British ports, had been prohibited. A large gold-field had been discovered in the Southern Mahratta country, and a company for working it formed in Bombay. The English in Bombay were much dissatisfied on account of five natives and only one Englishman being nominated new members of the Council.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

GENERAL NEWS.

The intelligence from America is still silent as to any positive movement on the Potomac, though an advance seems probable. General McClellan having issued an order calling upon the troops and others under his immediate command to hold themselves in readiness for such a movement, and 900 waggons having been inspected at Washington. A battle had taken place in Kentucky, of which some particulars will be found below. The great Mississippi expedition had not sailed, one reason being that the ice had prevented the rapid transportation of soldiers from St. Louis to Cairo. A large body of troops had, however, advanced as far as Mayfield Creek, about half-way between Cairo and Columbus. This latter place was in possession of the Confederates, who were said to number some 30,000 or 40,000.

It is reported from the South that General Burnside's expedition had arrived at Pamlico Sound and was about to attack Newbern and Roanoke Island. The Confederates are said to be ready for resistance.

The Senate had adopted the joint resolutions from the House imposing taxes which will raise 150,000,000 dols. A large vote for fortifications on the coast had also been agreed to by the House of Representatives.

The Committee of Ways and Means has reported to the House of Representatives on the National Currency and Loan Bill, which proposes to legalise as a lawful tender in all money transactions of the country the United States' notes in circulation, amounting to 150,000,000 dols., including the 50,000,000 dols. issued under the Act of last July. This circulation and all audited demands upon the Treasury are convertible into public stocks bearing six per cent interest and having twenty years to run. The bill also authorises the creation of funded Six per Cent Stock equal to 500,000,000 dols., which are to be used in payment of the floating debt and for funding Treasury notes. This is for the service of the year ending June, 1862, and for the ensuing year ending June, 1863. The stocks are to bear interest at a uniform rate of 6 per cent, but may, when so appealed for, be expressed in the currency of any foreign State, and made payable abroad to the equivalent of their par value in Federal currency. The notes are to be for 5 dols. and upwards. The banks were steadily increasing their reserve of specie and at the same time reducing their loans. None of the New York banks refused to redeem their notes in gold. The money market was without change.

Ex-President Tyler is dead.

The Southern journals report that the steamer *Gladiator*, with a cargo of arms, had arrived at a port in Florida.

BATTLE IN KENTUCKY.

The New York journals publish a despatch from Cincinnati, dated the 20th ult., which says:—"A battle took place at Somerset, Kentucky, on Saturday, between General Schoepf's and General Zollicoffer's forces. The battle lasted from early in the morning till dusk. General Zollicoffer was killed and his army entirely defeated. Our victory (continues the despatch) has been very decisive, and will result in the rout of the whole force defending the right flank of Bowling Green. A combined attack was made to-day on General Zollicoffer's intrenchments at Mill Spring, Wayne County, Kentucky, resulting in a complete victory. The stars and stripes now float over the fortifications. We captured all their camp property and a large number of prisoners. General Zollicoffer's dead body is in the hands of the Unionists."

A Lexington correspondent gives the following account of the battle:—"General Zollicoffer, learning that the Union forces had appeared in his rear, marched out of his intrenchments at three o'clock on Saturday morning and attacked General Schoepf in camp. The pickets were driven in at an early hour, and the attack was made before daylight. The battle is reported to have raged with great

fury until three in the afternoon, when, General Zollicoffer having been killed, the whole Confederate force fled in confusion to their camp. The loss is not stated, but is reported to be heavy."

A telegram from Louisville of the 20th says:—"The Confederates were in full retreat to their intrenchments at Mill Spring, with the Union troops in hot pursuit. General Thomas followed up the rebels on Sunday to their intrenchments, sixteen miles from his own camp, and, when about to attack them, he found their intrenchments deserted, the rebels having left all their cannon, quartermasters' stores, tents, horses, and waggons, which fell into our hands. The rebels, dispersing, had crossed the Cumberland, opposite their encampment, at Mill Spring. Two hundred and seventy-five rebels were killed and wounded, including Generals Zollicoffer and Balie Peyton, who were found on the field. The 10th Indiana Regiment lost seventy-five killed and wounded. Nothing further of the Union loss has yet reached here."

A Washington despatch of the 20th, also published in the New York journals, says:—"The Government has received a despatch this evening confirming the news of the glorious victory in Kentucky. The demonstration in Kentucky is the opening of the grand campaign, and which will result in a continuous movement until the rebellion is crushed out. This wipes the rebels out from Eastern Kentucky and opens the way for General Buell's grand army to march into East Tennessee, where he will soon unite his troops with our forces from the coast."

THE CONGRESS AND THE GENERAL.

It is stated that the investigation committee at Washington summoned before them one of the Generals on the Staff of the Commander-in-Chief. They wanted the secrets of the head-quarters, and this is how they sped in trying to get them. They asked the General on the Staff if he had ever been invited by General McClellan to a council of war? He replied that he had.

Committee—Do you think General McClellan has any plans of operation?

General—I know he has.

Committee—Has he ever submitted his plans to any council of war that you have attended?

General—He has.

Committee—Will you please state to the committee what General McClellan's plans are?

General—No, Sir; not until I am ordered to do so by General McClellan.

This prompt and soldierlike reply brought the committee suddenly to the consideration of the fact that they were meddling with affairs that did not concern them, and about which they had no business to interfere. The General in question was discharged, and returned to the head-quarters of his division.

IRELAND.

A LIBERAL OFFER.—Alderman Drummond, of Dublin, has offered to give £10,000 towards the erection and endowment of an institution for the training and educating of soldiers' orphan children, if the Government give a similar sum, and the public raise by subscription a third £10,000. Mr. Drummond, accompanied by some friends, had an interview with the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on Saturday last, for the purpose of communicating to his Excellency the particulars of his design. Mr. Drummond was most cordially received by his Excellency, who requested to be furnished with the details of the project in a written communication.

THE GOLDSMITH TESTIMONIAL.—A large portion of the sum required to complete this testimonial is still uncollected. Such a fact is little creditable to the country. The honorary secretary states that "the amount nominally subscribed up to the present time is something less than £900; of this sum, however, a very large amount still remains unpaid, and a portion will be altogether lost. It is believed that about £1100 would cover the expenses of printing list, sending circulars, advertising, &c., and would also pay for the statue. Mr. Foley, the sculptor, has most generously contributed £100, and by so doing has reduced the cost of the statue from £1000 to £900; so that if all the money promised was lodged in the Royal Bank, with about £200 additional, Dublin would soon be in possession of the statue, which will be finished in about three months."

COMMITTEES ON A CHARGE OF MURDER.—John Jones, a young man who was beaten in July last by two men named Donoghue and Meagher—rather a curious combination of names—because he attended as a witness at the previous Tullamore Assizes, died on the 24th ult. of the injuries received, and an inquest having been held, the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against Meagher and Donoghue, who are already arrested, and will be tried at the ensuing Nenagh Assizes on the capital charge.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT IN IRELAND.—A noisy meeting by the "Loyal Association of Irish Volunteers" was held on Friday evening week at Dublin. Mr. Richardson, the secretary, was the most prominent man on the occasion. Several noblemen and others had been invited to attend, but they had apologised, and sent notes instead. After a great deal of noise and confusion it was proposed that, in the absence of the Earl of Limerick, Dr. Grattan should take the chair. This was done, but for a long while no business could be done for the confusion. At last Mr. Stoney, J. P., moved a resolution, "That it is the indisputable right of Irishmen to be placed upon an equality with the other subjects of the empire, by being permitted to form rifle volunteer corps in their own country." Some other resolutions were brought forward, but no one seemed anxious to attend to them, and, after some of the speakers had been "chaffed" a good deal, the meeting dispersed.

IRISH LEGISLATION.—Sir Robert Peel has a good opportunity of stamping his name indelibly on the legislation of Ireland, and securing the lasting gratitude of the people, by taking up and carrying through the House of Commons some measures of practical reform which his predecessors have had to abandon Session after Session. The most urgent of these are a general registration of births, marriages, and deaths, and a bill for the regulation of fairs and markets. Ireland has no registration of births or deaths, and the majority of the population are exempt from the operation of the Act for the Registration of Marriages, which applies only to Protestants. The question was brought forward repeatedly by former Chief Secretaries in vain; but it is confidently expected that Sir Robert Peel, bringing to the subject more energy and perseverance, will be more successful.

SCOTLAND.

A POACHER DENIED THE PRIVILEGES OF THE CHURCH.—Some few years ago an individual in Galloway was apprehended and brought before the Justice Court at Stranraer on a charge of killing game. He was sentenced to a period of imprisonment for the offence, and underwent the sentence. Since his release he applied to the minister of the parish in which he resides for the baptism of his child. The rev. gentleman peremptorily refused to administer the rite for the very odd reason that the landed proprietors of Galloway had suffered great loss from time to time through the applicant destroying their game.

THE LATE CATASTROPHE IN EDINBURGH.—Two reports by professional men on the fall of the tenement in the High-street on the 24th of November last are known to be in the hands of the authorities. One of these is the joint report of Messrs. James Leslie and David Stevenson, civil engineers, to whom the matter was remitted by the Procurator-Fiscal two days after the fall of the building. It is understood that these gentlemen attribute the catastrophe to the subsidence and ultimately sudden fall of the wall running from east to west, which existed in the centre of the building, and that such fall was occasioned by the wall having been, on the lower floors, pierced by successive alterations for the "improvement" of the property till it became quite incapable of sustaining its own weight, independently of that of the upper floors, the joists or beams of which ran into and rested upon it. The other report is by Mr. John Dick Peddie, architect, made subsequent to and with knowledge of Messrs. Stevenson and Leslie's report. It is understood that Mr. Peddie substantially concurs in those gentlemen's views of the causes of the catastrophe, though he attributes more weight to certain specified alterations of the central wall than they do. We believe that Mr. Peddie also expresses much regret that examination of the building had not been made immediately on symptoms appearing of the subsidence of the wall; and also that the examinations on the Saturday previous to the catastrophe on Sunday morning, which were only partial, had not been more searching and complete.

LOSS OF A LEITH VESSEL AND FOURTEEN LIVES.—On the morning of Thursday, the 23rd ult., the trading-vessel Columbus, of Leith, Captain Davidson, 334 tons register, was totally wrecked in the Pentland Firth, when all on board perished except one man. From the survivor it has been ascertained that about half-past five in the morning, the weather being very thick and the wind strong from the south-east, the vessel drove on the Lother Rock, the south-west point of South Ronaldshay, about a mile from Burwick, and immediately parted in two. The hinder part instantly sank, but the fore part remained on the rock, and the one man clung to it who was afterwards rescued. The vessel was loaded with coal and a general cargo, and had a crew of thirteen men and two passengers. The cargo is entirely lost.

THE PROVINCES.

THE BISHOP OF EXETER AND "HAMLET."—A clergyman, the Rev. Julian Young, who had come to Torquay for the season for the benefit of his health, delivered a lecture on "Poets and Poetry of the Last Half Century" readings that those interested in the Torbay Infirmary asked him to read a play for the benefit of that institution. The rev. gentleman consented, and accordingly read "Hamlet." The lecture realised £45 15s., which was handed over to the Infirmary, the supporters of which, at the weekly meeting held last week, passed a vote of thanks to him. But in consequence of reading this play the Bishop of Exeter prohibited him from preaching in his diocese. In consequence of the numerous representations made to him on the subject the Bishop has since revoked the prohibition.

FRIGHTFUL DEATH.—A frightful accident occurred on Friday week near Sunderland. It appears that Messrs. Mounsey and Dixon, of Sunderland, have recently opened the Bedlington ironworks, and on the afternoon of the above day, at ten minutes to four, the partners, with Mrs. Mounsey and other ladies, were in the new mills witnessing the sawing of iron, when Mrs. Mounsey's dress became entangled in the machinery, and, before aid could be rendered or the engine stopped, she was dragged in amongst the machinery and literally torn to pieces.

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—A mural monument, beautifully executed in white marble, by Mr. J. S. Westmacott, London, in memory of the illustrious and skilful navigator, has recently been erected, on the east side of the reading-desk, in the church of Franklin's native town, Spilsby. It bears the following inscription:—"In memory of Captain Sir John Franklin, R.N., K.C.H., K.R., D.C.L., born at Spilsby, April 16, 1786; died in the Arctic Seas, June 11, 1847, while in command of the expedition which first discovered the north-west passage. They forged the last link with their lives. Erected by his widow."

FATAL ACCIDENT IN A TUNNEL.—A startling accident occurred on Saturday last in a tunnel on the Midland line between Belper and Driffield. It appears to have been a habit with some labourers to walk through this tunnel as a short cut to their homes. On Saturday five labourers were surprised in the tunnel by two trains coming from the opposite ends. Three of the men prostrated themselves close to the wall and escaped; the other two, who appear to have stood erect on the six-foot way between the lines, were caught; one was killed outright and the other had his arm dreadfully shattered.

MURDER AT BRIDGEWATER.—A shocking murder was perpetrated in Bridgewater on Saturday night last. About eleven o'clock a quarrel took place between two ironfounders named Matthew Doyle and Morris Anthony, the former an Irishman, and the latter a Welshman. The quarrel originated about a female, whom Anthony believed to have been hid in Doyle's house. The former made repeated attempts to get into the house, and tried to break open the door, which had been fastened. Doyle called out to him if he did not go away he would shoot him. Anthony, thinking this was a mere threat used for the purpose of frightening him away, continued kicking at the door. Doyle went into his parlour and took down his gun, which was already capped and loaded with duck shot, and going into the passage pointed it at the door and fired. The charge passed through the door within a circle of an inch and a half in diameter, and entered the left breast of the man outside. The latter called out that he was shot, and fell to the ground. The charge had entered the heart and the left lung; and the unfortunate man died within three-quarters of an hour from the time he was taken into the hospital. Doyle was at once taken into custody. Both the men were the worse for liquor at the time. Doyle has a wife and one child. Anthony was unmarried. Doyle has been committed for trial by the borough magistrates on a charge of wilful murder. The prisoner declares he had no intention of killing the man.

REPEAL OF THE PAPER DUTY.—BREAKFAST TO THE RIGHT HON. M. GIBSON, M.P.—A public breakfast took place on Tuesday, at Freemasons' Hall, on the occasion of the presentation of a commemorative testimonial to the Right Hon. T. M. Gibson for the services rendered by him in his advocacy of the "repeal of the taxes on literature and the press." Mr. W. Ewart, M.P., occupied the chair; and there were present about 120 gentlemen, besides a considerable number of ladies in the gallery. Mr. J. Francis read notes from Mr. Cobden, M.P., Mr. Bright, M.P., and Mr. Thackeray, expressing regret at their inability to attend. The Chairman proposed the health of Mr. Gibson, and then presented to him the testimonial, consisting of two handsome silver-gilt candelabra with pedestal and branches, and an elegant centre flower-basket, supported on three caryatid figures, the testimonial bearing a suitable inscription. Mr. Gibson, who was most warmly received, observed that the repeal of the paper duty was the act not of himself but of the Administration to which he belonged, and was materially aided by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and it was only in that point of view that he could accept this testimonial. He then enlarged at some length on the importance of the triumph they were celebrating and its beneficial influence on the general progress of society. Other addresses in harmony with the occasion were subsequently delivered.

FOR CONSCIENCE SAKE.—The Rev. R. R. Cornish, P. P. Curate of Ivybridge, in the diocese of Exeter, has resigned, on account of his inability to maintain his subscription to the formularies of the Established Church. By his resignation Mr. Cornish sacrifices a considerable property and his connection with his parishioners, by whom he was most deservedly beloved. He was one of the most popular clergymen of the diocese. His liberality was unbounded. He was the foremost in every work, whether clerical or secular, which could forward the interests or the happiness of all classes. He was secretary to the cricket-club, and took an active part in other wise and innocent recreations. He was highly esteemed by his brother clergymen, and was Diocesan Inspector of schools. Mr. Cornish intends to remain, however, a member, though no longer a minister, of the Church of England.

AUSTRIA AND ITALY.—A letter from Turin, speaking of the relations between Austria and Italy, has the following remarks:—"The rumours of a menace from Austria which have lately been current have now calmed down. It is known, in fact, that the military chiefs of that Power had need to raise the spirit of the army by words which are always agreeable to soldiers, but from that point to the possibility of an enterprise against Italy there is a great step to take. The Austrian army, according to reports believed to be authentic, has not that homogeneity which is pretended, above all, since the late events. The perfection which other armies have possessed for some time past has scarcely yet been attained by that of Austria. The fact is, that, after various experiments, the artillery has remained about the same as it was at Magenta and Solferino. An attempt has been made to give a great development to the navy in Austria, but it has ended in the conviction that it was impossible to attain that degree of perfection which would permit her to try her strength with other Powers, not even with Italy herself. Italy, on her part, does not seek to hasten events, and will not attempt anything against Austria, although the extreme parties urge her to do so. King Victor Emmanuel has great influence over the chief of the party the most energetic and the most dangerous; and Garibaldi would take good care not to put himself at the head of that party without the King's consent."

A THOUSAND CHINESE DROWNED.—The Californian journals, giving an account of a late disastrous flood with which they have been visited, state that the Chinese have been great sufferers. No less than forty-five Chinamen were carried away in their cabins at Oregon Bay, in Placer County. The Chinese hongs in San Francisco have since received letters from the interior of the State to the effect that during the late freshet near 1000 Chinamen were washed off from Long Bar and vicinity, on the Yula, and drowned. It appears that the poor fellows remained in their cabins on the bar, as they had done during the previous floods, until the raging waters rose about them and rendered their escape impossible.

THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.—In May, it is believed, Paddington is to be joined to Finsbury by a new and distinct thoroughfare. The railway has a width of nearly thirty feet, and its tunnelled arch is a most graceful curve, the majestic sweep of which can be seen at any point, as the whole is well lighted with gas. In the half of the contract which is being carried out by Messrs. Smith and Knight, and which extends from the Great Western Railway terminus to Euston-square, there yet remain three pieces to be got through. In the Euston-road 107 lineal yards have to be bored; in the Marylebone-road, 383; and at the junction of the Portland-road, 108. The extension of the line from Euston-square to Finsbury is taken up by another contractor—Mr. Jay. The stations on Messrs. Smith and Knight's moiety of the line will be five in number—namely, the Bishop's-road station or terminus at Paddington; the station in Chapel-street, Edgware-road; and then in Baker-street, in Portland-road, and in Gower-street. They will be built substantially, and with some ornamental pretensions, in the Italian style. The line of road to admit the platforms will be widened to something over forty-five feet. A few days ago that portion of the tunnel of the Underground or Metropolitan Railway which is situated in the Euston-road, and of which Mr. Jay is contractor, was completed and joined to that portion which is contracted for by Messrs. Knight. The tunnel is now completed from Euston-square to King's-cross, and the open cutting is being rapidly proceeded with. The Fleet-ditch is turned, and a tunnel is made under it for the rapid removal of the earth and rubbish which come from the destruction of the houses in Bagnigge-wells-road in the formation of the tunnel at the spot.

AT A ROMAN THEATRE, recently, an actor played the part of a rake on his last legs, and, in his despair, cried out, "How shall I manage to get myself into prison?" Whereupon a wag in the pit broke in, "Ory out 'Long live Victor Emmanuel!'" There was, of course, a shout of applause at the sally, and the darling national cry rang again and again in the house, to the utter confusion and discomfiture of the police.

THE EXHIBITION BUILDING.

JUDGING from the present appearance of the exhibition building, and the rate of progress now maintained, it seems pretty certain that all the conditions of the contract will be fulfilled by, if not before, the stipulated time.

Looked at from the Exhibition-road, the building now presents a most imposing front, the magnitude of which is enhanced by the modest elevation of the Kensington Museum, immediately opposite. The great eastern dome may be seen in all its gigantic proportions, looking uncommonly like Mr. Green's monster balloon during the process of inflation, and certainly appearing to be of enormous size as compared with the structure from which it springs. The artists must decide whether it harmonises with the great Gothic entrance over which it rises or with the semi-Italian façade of which it forms the centre; but its creation certainly establishes one fact, and that is, that with the aid of iron and glass we have it in our power to raise at a comparatively small expense, and in a very short time, two domes, either of which will compare with St. Peter's at Rome or the great mosque at Constantinople, and both of which have been run up in a few weeks, without the elaborate preliminaries of internal cone and massive buttress. The uses of competition were never more conspicuously developed than in the progress of these two wonderful domes. Whilst the eastern dome was without a competitor its progress was exceedingly slow, and the weekly visitor could hardly detect the progress which had been made in the interval; but, the moment the western dome was commenced, everything seemed changed as if by magic, and progress became a question not of weeks, but of days, and even of hours. It was, of course, natural to expect that the second should advance faster than the first, seeing that its constructors had all the advantage of their rival's failures and experiments, but still it is but fair to say that against all these advantages the eastern dome preserves a position of precedence fully as advanced as could have been expected from its period of starting. Its ribs are all placed and crowned, its ultimate turret is in its place, and its "terminal," or pinnacle, lies, finished and gilded, ready to be hoisted to the apex of the structure. When this is in its place it will appear but a bright and glittering point, but, stretched as it now is on the floor below, and surrounded by workmen, it seems to be an accessory of considerable magnitude. The "terminal" of the western dome is also in the hands of the artisans. It consists of a framework of wood, upon which the men are now busy hammering and riveting the zinc coating, and when that is completed the gilder will step in and complete the work.

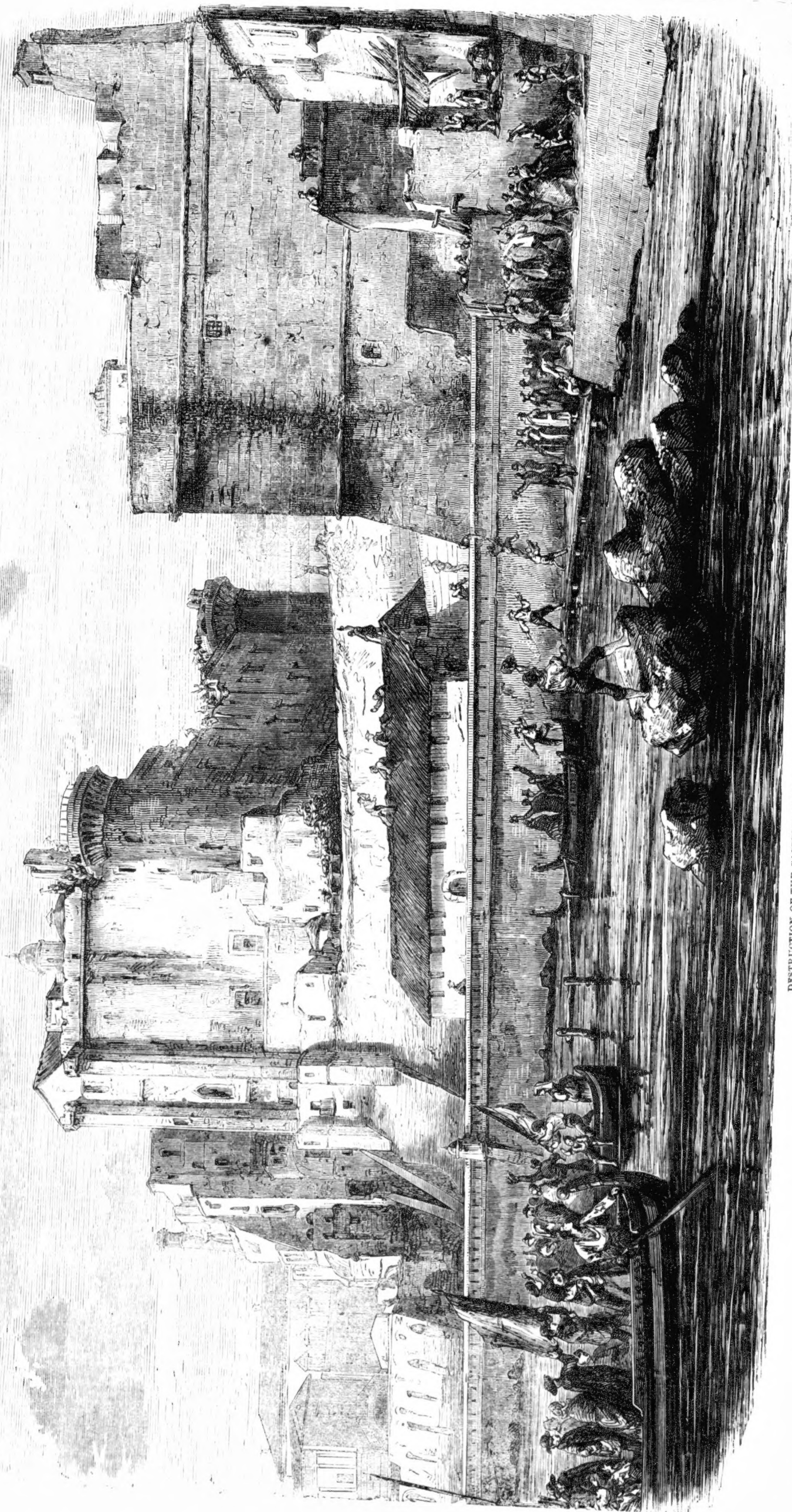
So much for the external work. During the present week glaziers will be seen, hanging from a giddy height, putting in the tiny squares of glass, and in another week the removal of the internal scaffolding, the erection of which cost so much care and skill, will begin. The process, it is expected, will occupy a month, as the taking down of this complicated structure is, it appears, much more dangerous than its erection. In the interior the principal feature is the sample which has been completed of Mr. Grace's decorations. Several pillars down the nave have already received their intended colours, and the great travelling scaffold has been moved up to the eastern end to accommodate the decorative workmen. It is difficult to pronounce an opinion on a work which is as yet only in its infancy; but it is the opinion of some persons that the colours which have been selected are too weak to produce the required effect in so vast an interior, and that the modicum of gilding contemplated will be lost in the imperfect light of the nave. These points are now fairly open for discussion, seeing that the utility of the building has been established by universal consent. If we are not absolutely incapable of ornament, we owe it to the connoisseurs whom we have invited from all corners of the world, to show that the mechanical pursuits of the English people have not entirely destroyed their taste for the beautiful, either in form or colour. Two or three data may be taken as established. The light in the nave and transepts is deficient, and will not be helped much by the illuminating power of the domes; the colours which have been laid on do not produce sufficient impression in so vast an interior; and the amount of gilding intended for decoration will be scarcely perceptible when the work is completed. Now is the time to look to these things, as in May next we shall have over here Frenchmen, Italians, and Germans, all with their cultivated sense of the beautiful, and it will not do for us to exhibit a structure which, in addition to its irreconcilability with all known schools of architecture, shall also violate those laws of light and colour which Nature herself has laid down equally in the wild gorge of the mountain and the cultivated parterre of the ornamental garden.

DISCOVERY OF ANTIQUE COINS.—A farmer residing at Britzingen, near Carlsruhe, while digging in one of his fields a few days since, discovered a vessel in red earth, containing 1257 silver coins made from thin sheets of silver, the relief on one side being formed by the hollow on the other. They are of the ninth and tenth centuries, and come from the mints of Paris, Metz, Metz, Wissemburg, Strasburg, &c. They still appear perfectly new and brilliant.

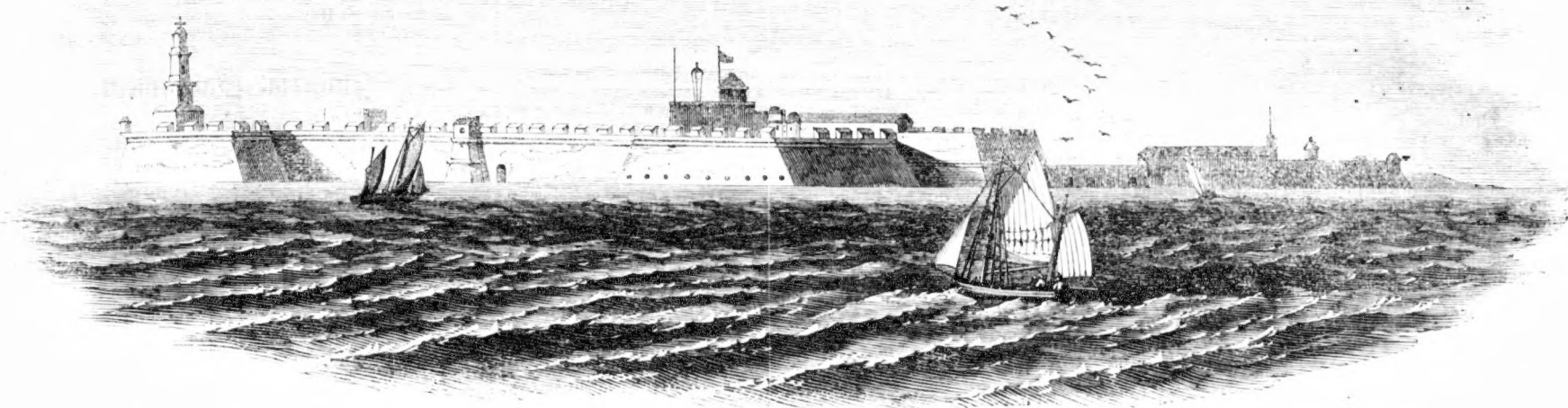
THE WINDHAM CASE.—A correspondence has been published with reference to this celebrated case which is curious on its singularity. It is not rare, we believe, that suitors in a cause address a Judge while the suit is substantially pending; but it is rare indeed when the Judge encourages the practice by sending a courteous reply. This rule appears, however, to have been broken through in the case of the Windham inquiry, where General Windham, very naturally feeling galled at the imputations that have been made on his personal honour, in a long letter requested the Vice-Chancellor to testify to his conduct on two points—first, that he had been a vigilant guardian as far as his military duties would permit; and, next, that he had no corrupt motives in raising the inquiry. To this the Vice-Chancellor states, in a lengthened reply, that, in the first place, the General was a vigilant guardian; and next, though he cannot fathom his or any man's motives, yet he can testify that he showed great interest in his nephew doing well, and on all occasions sought to save him from the consequences of his own folly. The learned Judge gives as a reason for replying to these inquiries that the case is terminated. We apprehend, however, that the case is not terminated—that the question of costs is still to be decided; and that on that point the conduct of General Windham will form a material element to be taken into the account.

THE TUSCARORA AND THE NASHVILLE.—The Tuscarora last week left Southampton Water, and anchored in Yarmouth Roads. On Saturday last she left that position and proceeded westward as far as Portland. Her commander, Captain Craven, evidently believed that the Nashville would delay her departure until the last moment; but his trip to Portland was the salvation of the Confederate steamer. The Nashville was ready to start on Saturday. On Monday at noon the Tuscarora passed inward through the Needles. Captain Craven hesitated to approach nearer to Southampton; but, being in want of some forty tons or so of coals to fill up his bunkers, he ventured in as far as Cowes. Her Majesty's steamer Shannon was still lying there with her steam up. Not suspecting anything, Capt. Craven dropped his anchor. He had no sooner done so than he received a telegram from Southampton stating that the Nashville was leaving the dock. This caused unusual excitement on board the Tuscarora, during which a communication was received from the Shannon that Captain Peggam, of the Nashville, having given legal notice to the proper authorities of his intention to leave the port of Southampton, Captain Craven would not be able to leave neutral waters until twenty-four hours had transpired after the departure of the Nashville. The Shannon immediately shifted her position to the westward of the Tuscarora to bar her exit though the west channel, while she could not have got away to the eastward, for her Majesty's ship Trafalgar barred her exit that way. The Nashville came creeling down Southampton Water, and just as she passed close to the Tuscarora the officers and crew of the former commenced cheering, and the Nashville passed rapidly on towards the Needles. The pilot left her about four miles outside, going at the rate of eleven knots an hour. It will be in vain for the Tuscarora to attempt to follow her; and, if there is no other Federal war-steamer in the Channel to intercept her, there can be no doubt of her escape, at least for the present. The Tuscarora will, there is every reason to believe, proceed to the Mediterranean. She will, it is expected, visit Southampton again in four months' time. The Nashville has been at Southampton nearly three months.

THE PONTIFICAL GOVERNMENT has just issued a circular summoning all the Roman Catholic Bishops throughout the world to a council to be held at Rome in May. The pretext for the meeting is the canonisation of certain martyrs. That it will be impotent for its real end, to stave the progress of events in Italy, cannot be doubted.



DESTRUCTION OF THE CASTELLO NUOVO AT NAPLES.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. LERTSAND.)



THE FORTRESS OF SAN JUAN D'ULLOA.

DESTRUCTION OF THE CASTELLO NUOVO AT NAPLES.

It will be remembered how, during the war of independence in Italy, the Neapolitan fortresses were filled with the Royalist troops, who, even during the short periods of truce, continued firing upon the town and the inoffensive people. Indeed, those same fortresses were altogether associated with the atrocities of the Bourbon rule, and their foul dungeons were for years the homes of many of the friends of liberty and intelligent order. One of the principal of these strongholds—the Castello Nuovo—has been utterly destroyed amidst a general enthusiasm which greeted the first stroke of the pickaxe that told of its demolition.

THE INTERVENTION IN MEXICO.

THE intervention of the three European Powers in the affairs of Mexico is assuming an importance little anticipated when the intention to despatch an expedition to that country was first announced. The intelligence which we have from time to time published, will have prepared our readers for the information that the measures adopted would not be confined, as was at first stated, to capturing certain ports on the seaboard, and holding them as "material guarantees" for the redress of the grievances of which the several intervening Powers complained, but that an intention to advance to, and take possession of, the capital itself had begun to be entertained. But we

doubt if much importance was attached to the rumours circulated on the continent, to the effect that a change in the form of the Government of Mexico would be made, that the republic would give place to a monarchy, and that an Austrian archduke would be placed upon the newly-erected throne. As it was said that all this would be done with the "free consent of the people of Mexico," and as, supposing the Mexicans appreciated the privilege of self-government, and knew anything of Austrian princes and their idea of rule, such a consent was little likely to be accorded, there seemed slight grounds indeed for placing any faith in the reports of the intentions of the two continental Powers on the subject, especially as it was stated that the cession of Venetia to Italy was to be the price of this bit of aggrandisement for the house of Hapsburg—a cession to which there was small probability of her consenting, however desirable in the interests of Italy and of humanity, and all idea of doing which the Austrian journals still persistently repudiate. If, however, we may credit the *Morning Post*, it has now been determined (with the assent of Great Britain) by the Courts of Paris and Madrid that their armies shall march direct from Vera Cruz to the capital of Mexico, and there suppress the Executive. It is believed that the forces already sent out by France and Spain, independently of the extensive resources of the latter Power in the neighbouring dependency of Cuba—where she has 35,000 troops—will be sufficient at once to disarm the opposition of Generals Juarez and Uruga, and to leave the allies masters at once of the

field and of the civil Government. "While all this is going on in the interior with our concurrence, we believe," says the *Post*, "that we shall limit our active military co-operation to the presence of a powerful squadron in the Gulf of Mexico, and to garrisoning the port of San Juan d'Ulloa with a force of 700 marines during the continuance of the healthy season on that coast. This force, when the season grows unhealthy, is to be replaced by acclimatised Cuban troops. We believe that it is a probable result of this march of the allies on Mexico that that unhappy and distracted Republic will reappear to the world as a constitutional monarchy, and that the Archduke Maximilian, brother of Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria, will assume the title of King of Mexico. It will not be found necessary to maintain an army of occupation in support of the new Government until it shall have derived sufficient stability to stand alone. Meanwhile we shall, of course, pursue our original scheme of indemnification at the ports on the Gulf." It appears also, from a statement made by an Austrian semi-official journal, that Councillor von Scherzenlechner, who is habitually employed by the Archduke Maximilian in confidential missions, has left Vienna for Mexico. The same paper says:—"A Vienna library has received orders from Trieste to send thither all scientific works treating of Mexico."

By intelligence from Paris we learn, that in addition to the troops already dispatched by France to Mexico, four more batteries of artillery have received instructions to hold themselves in readiness.



DISEMBARKATION OF SPANISH TROOPS AT VERA CRUZ.

According to the French journals a plan of operations has been agreed on between the allied Powers, according to which, early in March, the allied troops will march on Mexico, occupying in common as they advance the principal strategic points. There will be no nominal Commander-in-Chief, but the command will be exercised equally by the respective Generals, amongst whom, it is believed, complete harmony will prevail. The land operations will be principally carried on by French and Spanish troops, while a powerful British squadron will co-operate in the Gulf of Mexico.

We have already published the details of the landing of the Spanish troops at Vera Cruz, and of the capture of that city and the fort of San Juan d'Ulloa, and we now print an Engraving illustrative of the scene exhibited when the soldiers of Spain again set foot upon the soil which had been won for her by Cortes and Pizarro, but from which her cruelty and oppression roused the inhabitants to expel her. The fort of San Juan d'Ulloa—of which we also give an Engraving—which was erected by the early Spanish conquerors of Mexico, in accordance with their usual practice of building a cathedral and a fort wherever they set their foot—is situated on the island of San Juan, in the roadstead of Vera Cruz, which, by-the-by, can hardly be called a harbour. Besides the fortress, the island of San Juan is surmounted by a lighthouse seventy feet above the level of the sea, and has a communication with the town of Vera Cruz by railway. San Juan was abandoned by the Mexican troops, along with the town of Vera Cruz itself, when the Spaniards landed, and is now in the joint occupation of the three Powers.

The latest of the operations at Vera Cruz is contained in the following letter published a few days ago in the *Paris Moniteur*:

Since the landing of the Spanish troops the most rigid discipline has been observed, property respected, and order guaranteed. The town being in a state of siege, a military commission was formed to take cognizance of all offences, and the inhabitants were called on to deliver up all their arms. As the clerks belonging to the customs had left the place and taken with them the books and documents connected with that administration, it was found necessary to adopt a temporary reorganisation, under the direction of an Intendant and other functionaries belonging to the expeditionary corps, and under the surveillance of a commission composed of the French, English, and American Consuls. By this new arrangement all merchandise landed from vessels is, until further order, to remain in bond in the customs warehouses without being subject to any import duty. Such articles, however, as are liable to be injured, or which from their bulk would subject the merchants to too heavy a charge for warehouse rent, may be taken out by the consignees under certain guarantees. The postal service has also been re-established, but only for abroad, General Gasset not being willing to take on himself the responsibility of sending letters into the interior without an escort. The most perfect quiet prevails in Vera Cruz, and a part of the inhabitants who, of their free will or by force, had followed the troops of General Uruga, when the town was evacuated, have returned. All the Spanish soldiers have landed, but a considerable part of the military stores still remains on board the transports, as General Gasset received a formal order from his Government not to make any movement until the arrival of General Prim and the commanders of the French and English forces. This inaction is not, however, without its inconveniences, for the guerrillas scour the country in the neighbourhood and prevent supplies entering the town, by which provisions are becoming every day dearer. In order to ascertain the feelings of the chiefs of the Mexican army the French Minister sent a message to General Uruga, who commands the Mexican corps of observation, expressing a wish to have an interview with him. A meeting was appointed for the 25th of December, and in the morning of that day M. Dubois de Saligny, accompanied by Captain Chailie, of the Foudre frigate, went to Tejeria, the extreme station of the railway to Puebla, and about fifteen miles from Vera Cruz. At some distance from Tejeria he found a detachment of Mexican cavalry, composed for the most part of volunteers, who to do him honour, and on reaching Tejeria he was received by an Aide-de-Camp, who immediately introduced him to General Uruga. The latter is a man about fifty years of age, and of a very intelligent physiognomy. He was formerly Minister of War of Mexico, and for some time Mexican Minister at Berlin and Washington, and speaks French fluently. The reception which he gave to his visitors was most courteous, and they were soon able to convince themselves that the Mexican General was aware of the difficulty of any attempt to contend with the combined forces of the three allied Powers. The Mexican army is, in fact, composed of most unpromising elements. The Generals and superior officers are numerous, but, with very few exceptions, all the others are young, inexperienced men, who only a short time since were engaged in civil employments. As to the soldiers, most of them are peasants, accustomed, it is true, to fatigue and privations, but utterly incapable of standing against European troops. There is, moreover, every reason to suppose that there will not be any serious struggle, as the excitement produced by the declamation of the journals has calmed down, and the idea of a compromise is no longer, as at the outset, rejected as an act of national treason. There are also serious indications that a party is being formed disposed to repudiate the acts of the Government, which have been so disastrous to the country. The enlightened inhabitants do not wish for war, but desire the unity of the country under an independent and constitutional monarchy. A foreign prince would, doubtless, be willingly accepted, but the allied Powers will have to be very careful in putting that pretension forward, as it would imply the idea of conquest and wound the national self-love. Accounts received from Mexico and Puebla state that Juarez issued a proclamation on the 26th of December calling all the population to arms and decreeing a forced loan of two per cent on capital. It is also said that the Mexicans are fortifying different points of the road leading from Vera Cruz to the capital, and on which from 10,000 to 12,000 volunteers are stationed.

According to advices received by way of New York, Juarez had formed a new and stronger Government, which had given great satisfaction. General Doblado, a man of considerable energy of character, had been appointed Secretary of State, and had called upon the Governors of the various provinces to furnish contingents to the army, which, it is expected, will number 150,000 men. As the Government had offered an amnesty to the Church party, it is quite possible that the Mexicans may agree to sink their own differences in order to meet the invaders.

General Prim and the French and English squadrons arrived at Vera Cruz on the 7th inst. There was no diminution in the signs of the intention of the Mexicans to make resistance in the interior. According to some accounts Vera Cruz was surrounded on the land side. An attack on the city was apprehended.

A BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.—An association has been formed for the purpose of "disseminating official information regarding the material resources of the British North American possessions in respect to employment of capital and labour, and collecting and placing in available form the general statistics of the provinces, not only concerning the development of their commerce, but also as recording the progress of the arts and sciences, and of their social and political condition." This body, which is to be styled the British North American Association, includes among its members many of the most influential capitalists of London and several prominent members of Parliament.

ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE.—The following is an extract from the letter of the Governor of Antigua to a relative, dated the 11th of January last, when the expectation of a rupture with America was imminent:—"We are taking steps for defence against predatory attacks. An arrangement is being made with the captains of merchant vessels in port, by which, on a given signal, men from such vessels will repair to a battery which commands the entrance to the harbour; and I find that on board these vessels are men of the Naval Reserve, who have been drilled to gunnery, and are delighted at the idea of giving their service. This incidentally shows the value of that system. But I heartily hope there will not be war."

THE RESULTS OF GAMBLING.—A letter from Homburg states that another suicide has just taken place there, a young man, a Prussian, having shot himself after having lost all his money at a gaming-house. This makes the third occurrence of the kind since the commencement of the new year. A rich Russian, who had ruined himself by gambling, left Homburg soon afterwards for Berlin to procure more money, and put an end to his existence in the latter place. The third sacrifice was that of a traveller, who hanged himself at a neighbouring town after having beggared himself at Homburg.

VOLUNTEERS' UNIFORMS.—An arrangement is about to be made at the Clothing Department of the War Office by which volunteers may obtain cloth for their uniforms at the cost price at which it is produced to the Government. In order to avail themselves of this very considerable boon, however, something like uniformity of colour must be adopted among the different corps. At present the colours available at the Clothing Department are blue, for Artillery, Hussars, &c.; scarlet, and rifle green. We believe the authorities will be ready to stretch a point, and manufacture one shade of grey, should there be a general desire for it among the volunteer regiments. The War Office cannot undertake to have the clothing made up, or to supply equipments or ornaments of any kind.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 172.

CHANGES IN THE HOUSE.

DEATH, as usual, has been busy in the Houses of Parliament during the vacation, and the House of Commons now assembled is not exactly the House which separated in August last. The foremost victim of the "insatiate archer" was Sir James Graham. He left the House apparently in his usual good health, but the arrow had flown, the fatal wound was given, and speedily after the prorogation he was "gathered to his fathers." This is the severest blow that the House has received since Sir Robert Peel died, for Sir James Graham was one of our "bright, particular stars," and his loss will be severely felt. He was hardly a great statesman, but he was an able administrator and a debater of unrivalled power. This was his characteristic in the House. He was not an orator, but a debater. But he is gone; we shall never see his fine manly form nor ever hear his deep-toned voice again. A Mr. Edward Potter of Manchester, succeeds him as member for Carlisle—a man unknown to us and fame; but that he will fill the place of the worthy Knight of Netherby in the House is too much to expect. And Thomas Slingsby Duncombe is gone too. It is singular that Sir James and Thomas Duncombe should die so nearly together, for the "Knight of Netherby" and Tommy were in early years sworn friends and afterwards determined foes. It was the letter-opening business in 1844 that made them enemies, though in truth there never could have been much sympathy between the clever, nimble-witted, volatile member for Finsbury and the solid, elephantine Sir James. Our old friend Mr. Cox took the seat of Mr. Duncombe. And "what a falling off was there," for Tommy Duncombe was, with all his faults, a notable man and a power in the House. It was, however, no fault of the poor Finsbury electors that they chose Cox to succeed Duncombe. On the contrary, they did well. Two mediocrities presented themselves, one rich and influential, with money and organisation at his back, the other poor (comparatively) and with no influence, and no committee, and the electors selected the poorer mediocrity in preference to the richer, in doing which they, in our judgment, did wisely. Major Sibthorp's death made a vacancy for Lincoln, which a Mr. Seeley, a local celebrity, who had tried before to get into Parliament, has been chosen to fill. We know what Major Sibthorp was. He was a silent, modest, unobtrusive member, as unlike the old grotesque Colonel his father as possible. But what Mr. Seeley will prove to be we have yet to learn. Just as the House broke up Mr. Mellor took his seat on the Judicial Bench, and Nottingham became vacant. His Grace the Duke of Newcastle was anxious to get his son, Lord Lincoln, returned; but the people would not listen to any blandishments from the castle. Liberals and Tories turned a deaf ear to the charmer, and his Grace was ignominiously defeated, and Sir Robert Fikes Clifton was returned. Of what he is, or what he may become, we can say nothing, for he is unknown to us, and quite untried; but if he speak in the House at all he will be equal—the chances are—to Mellor, and superior to Lincoln. Mr. Hodgkiss Foley, the member for East Worcestershire, who died lately, was a good and respectable man, but a Parliamentary nonentity; and probably Mr. Foley Vernon will prove like unto his predecessor. Granville Harcourt, the member for Oxfordshire, had been in the House half a century and five years over, but nobody will miss him, for he never opened his lips, and probably half the members did not know him. Colonel Fane, altogether unknown to us, takes this seat. The vacancy at Shoreham caused by the death of the Parliamentary patriarch Sir Charles Merrik Burrell has been filled up by the election of his son, Sir Percy Burrell. By Sir Charles's decease the servant girls who clean our windows have lost a friend. Every man has his mission, and this was of late years his—to bring in annually a bill to prevent females cleaning the outsides of windows; and very zealous was Sir Charles on this subject; and, though his zeal met with no reward in this world, let us hope that it has in the other. Lord Valletort is gone to the House of Lords as the Earl of Mount Edgcombe, *vice* his father, deceased, and him Mr. Morrison succeeds as member for Plymouth. Lord Worsley inherits his father's title as Earl of Yarborough; but the seat for Grimsby vacated by the change is not yet filled up. Lord Worsley will be remembered as the young man whom Mr. Edwin James patronised and—(well, we won't say what). It was a case of a hawk and pigeon. South Lancashire preferred as its additional member Mr. Turner, one of the Liverpool magnates, formerly in Parliament, to Mr. Cheetham, who once represented this division of the county; and the new borough of Birkenhead has returned Mr. Laird, the great shipbuilder. Mr. Laird has contributed not a little to the making of this place, and it is not unnatural that the inhabitants should choose him as their first member. In Ireland old Dr. Boyd died, and Coleraine has sent us Sir Harvey Bruce in place of the Doctor.

CHANGES IN THE BUILDING.

Under this head we have not much to record. The seats of the House have been newly covered with green morocco, the old covering having become by wear and tear faded and shabby; a new carpet, or an old one revived, has been laid down in the lobby entrance; and in the corridor leading to the library the old, worn-out kamptulion has been supplanted by a bright yellow floorcloth. Mr. Brett is no longer the manager of the electric apparatus for ringing the division bells. The apparatus was very much out of order, and sundry unpleasant failures gave great dissatisfaction last Session. The whole has been thoroughly overhauled, and repaired where repair was required; and Professor Wheatstone having been appointed as superintendent of this important department, it is hoped and confidently expected that no disasters will again occur. On one occasion last year, when the bells failed to ring, a dozen members were shut out of a division. This was intolerable—could not be endured, if cost could remedy the evil, and hence the change. There are sundry new frescoes in the corridors, but these have been already noticed in the *ILLUSTRATED TIMES*, and need no further comment from us. But there is a picture in the Royal Gallery which is so important a contribution to art that it deserves a separate head.

MACLISE'S PICTURE.

This notable picture is just finished, and will soon be disclosed, if it be not already, to public view. It measures about 45ft. long by 13ft. deep, and is, we imagine, the largest picture that has been painted for many years. The subject is the meeting of the Duke of Wellington and Blucher at "La Belle Alliance" after the battle of Waterloo. The Duke and Blucher are on horseback; behind each are clustered their respective staffs; and in the foreground lie the dead and the wounded, horses and men, and overturned cannon, giving a vivid and terrible idea of the desperate struggles which must ever make "La Belle Alliance" famous in history. It is not our intention to offer the slightest criticism upon this vast work. We leave this duty to the professional critics, who will not be slow, we may be sure, to pounce upon such a noble quarry. We may be allowed, however, to say that the picture is at present seen under immense disadvantages. Indeed, we would seriously recommend the artist, for the sake of his own fame, to shut up his picture until some change be made. The case is this: the light which falls upon the picture passes through the highly coloured windows opposite—windows blazing with red, green, blue, yellow, &c.; in short, with all the colours of the rainbow, and more; and these colours being flung upon the picture of course neutralise the colours of the artist. Nor is this all, for over the picture there is another range of windows precisely similar to those opposite, and the effect of these is this—First, it is very difficult, unless you can contrive to shut out these windows from the field of view, to see the picture at all; and, secondly, having caught a glance, as you must do, of the highly-coloured glass above, you find that the colours remain upon the retina of the eye, and you have for a time to look through these colours at the picture below. Indeed, we think that these windows are even more mischievous to the picture than those on the opposite

side. What remedy the Fine-Arts Commission may devise for these evils we cannot imagine; but it is clear that something must be done or great injustice will be suffered by the artist, and we may say also by the public. When the new House of Commons was first opened the windows there were as highly coloured as these in the Royal Gallery, but they were so unpleasant to the eyes of the members, and so discoloured and distorted their faces, that, at the recommendation of Mr. Joseph Hume, the highly-coloured glass was taken out and replaced by ground glass, with coloured borders only.

Imperial Parliament.

THE Imperial Parliament was opened on Thursday afternoon by Royal Commission. The great loss which the nation recently sustained in the death of the Prince Consort deprived the ceremonial of all the grandeur with which it is ordinarily associated in the public mind. There was no splendid procession, no crowding to catch a glimpse of the Queen, no brilliant scene in the House of Lords. The noble Lords who were included in the Commission went down privately to their chamber, and, having robed, directed the attendance of the House of Commons at their Lordships' bar. The Speaker, accompanied by several of the Ministers and other members, attended. The Lord Chancellor then read

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

We are commanded by her Majesty to assure you that her Majesty is persuaded that you will deeply participate in the affliction by which her Majesty has been overwhelmed by the calamitous, untimely, and irreparable loss of her beloved consort, who has been her comfort and her support.

It has been, however, soothing to her Majesty, while suffering most acutely under this awful dispensation of Providence, to receive from all classes of her subjects the most cordial assurances of their sympathy with her sorrow, as well as of their appreciation of the noble character of him the greatness of whose loss to her Majesty and to the nation is so justly and so universally felt and lamented.

We are commanded by her Majesty to assure you that she recurs with confidence to your assistance and advice.

Her Majesty's relations with all the European Powers continue to be friendly and satisfactory; and her Majesty trusts there is no reason to apprehend any disturbance of the peace of Europe.

A question of great importance, and which might have led to very serious consequences, arose between her Majesty and the Government of the United States of North America, owing to the seizure and forcible removal of four passengers from on board a British mail-ship by the commander of a ship of war of the United States; but that question has been satisfactorily settled by the restoration of the passengers to British protection and by the disavowal by the United States' Government of the act of violence committed by their naval officer.

The friendly relations between her Majesty and the President of the United States have therefore remained unimpaired.

Her Majesty warmly appreciates the loyalty and patriotic spirit which have been manifested on this occasion by her North American subjects.

The wrongs committed by various parties and by successive Governments in Mexico upon foreigners resident within the Mexican territory, and for which no satisfactory redress could be obtained, have led to the conclusion of a convention between her Majesty, the Emperor of the French, and the Queen of Spain, for the purpose of regulating a combined operation on the coast of Mexico, with a view to obtain that redress which has hitherto been withheld.

That convention, and papers relating to that subject, will be laid before you.

The improvement which has taken place in the relations between her Majesty's Government and that of the Emperor of China, and the good faith with which the Chinese Government have continued to fulfil the engagements of the Treaty of Tien-Tsin, have enabled her Majesty to withdraw her troops from the city of Canton and to reduce the amount of her force on the coast and in the seas of China.

Her Majesty, always anxious to exert her influence for the preservation of peace, has concluded a convention with the Sultan of Morocco, by means of which the Sultan has been enabled to raise the amount necessary for the fulfilment of certain treaty engagements which he had contracted towards Spain, and thus to avoid the risk of a renewal of hostilities with that Power. The convention, and papers connected with it, will be laid before you.

GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that she has directed the Estimates for the ensuing year to be laid before you. They have been framed with a due regard to prudent economy and to the efficiency of the public service.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

Her Majesty commands us to inform you that measures for the improvement of the law will be laid before you, and among them will be a bill for rendering the title to land more simple and its transfer more easy.

Other measures of public usefulness relating to Great Britain and to Ireland will be submitted for your consideration.

Her Majesty regrets that in some parts of the United Kingdom, and in certain branches of industry, temporary causes have produced considerable pressure and privation; but her Majesty has reason to believe that the general condition of the country is sound and satisfactory.

Her Majesty confidently commends the general interests of the nation to your wisdom and your care, and she fervently prays that the blessing of Almighty God may attend your deliberations and may guide them to the promotion of the welfare and happiness of her people.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House resumed at five o'clock. On the Ministerial benches were Earl Russell, the Duke of Newcastle, Earl Granville, the Duke of Argyll, and a very large attendance of Bishops.

VESTRY BILL.

Earl GRANVILLE introduced the Vestry Bill, which was read a first time *pro forma*.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.—THE ADDRESS.

The Lord Chancellor having read the Queen's Speech, Lord DUFFERIN said, in moving the Address in answer to the Speech which the noble Lord had just read to the House, he must ask their indulgence while he spoke of the points contained in that Speech. Her Majesty had commenced her reign with every view of prosperity; but the Sovereign and the nation had been overtaken by a calamity, the consequences of which there was no foreseeing. There was not a more fitting time or place than that to offer the tribute of condolence to the British Throne. When the Prince's death became known, the whole nation with one accord turned towards their Sovereign with the deepest feeling of sympathy, and while that tide of condolence was rolling to the foot of the throne he thought that in a solemn assembly like that they ought to find room in it to send their deep feelings of regret to their Sovereign. The illustrious Prince who had departed devoted his life to the enlightenment of the people and the improvement of all classes of society. If there were anything that could bring consolation to our afflicted Sovereign it would be the profound sympathy and love that had been manifested towards her Majesty by her loyal and devoted people. The Almighty Power which had afflicted the Queen and the country with such an irreparable loss would give her strength to bear the weight of her affliction. During the recess the Legislature had received a severe loss in the death of that able statesman Lord Herbert. Another great loss had been sustained in the death of Sir James Graham. If anything could have increased the deep grief which the death of the Prince had cast over them it would have been a war with a nation connected by ties of blood and other relations that would render that war one of a fratricidal character, but that great calamity had been spared by the forbearance of the Government, and the noble Lord the Secretary for Foreign Affairs had added to his own laurels by the manner in which he had maintained the honour of England. He thought our duty was plain—to continue a course which had already been productive of so much advantage to the country; and he had reason to believe that if her Majesty's Government pursued a wise and conciliatory policy they would receive the unanimous support of both sides of the House.

The Earl of SHILBURN briefly seconded the Address.

The Earl of DUNDEE concurred with the mover and second of the Address in the tribute they had paid to the memory of Prince Albert; and said he felt that the peculiar circumstances under which they had met rendered it most desirable that there should be no unnecessary differences of opinion. With regard to the American difficulty, he was bound to admit that her Majesty's Government had no alternative in the course they had taken. Yet, though he approved the course the Government had taken in reference to the American difficulty, he thought they ought to be cautious how they entered upon negotiations which had for their object an alteration in the principles upon which international law was now regulated; the other topics contained in the Royal Speech were of minor importance; but, at the same time, he hoped her Majesty's Government would at an early day give some explanations of the convention which had been entered into with France and Spain with regard to the affairs of Mexico. Upon another point he also hoped there might be an explanation—namely, with regard to the minute of the Committee of Council on Education. He trusted, however, that a legitimate opportunity would be afforded to their Lordships of discussing the whole question.

Earl GRANVILLE expressed his satisfaction at the course which Lord Derby had taken, and said that throughout the whole of the differences with the American Government her Majesty's Government had entered into but one desire, and that was the preservation of the neutrality of the country, so far as the intestine disputes with America were concerned, but not at the cost of dishonour to the British name. The noble Earl then alluded in feeling terms to the loss which the country had sustained in the death of Prince Albert; and, adverting to the educational minute, said that although it embodied the general feeling of the Government, still he thought an opportunity ought to be afforded for the full discussion of the principles on which it was based; and they would not be unprepared to make such alterations therein as the general feeling of Parliament might think desirable.

Earl RUSSELL stated that all the papers which related to the American difficulty and to the affairs of Mexico should at an early day be laid before Parliament. He expressed his satisfaction at the manner in which the efforts of the Government to maintain the honour of the British flag had been supported by the country. Adverting to the present position of American affairs, he stated there could be no doubt, from the rapid success which had attended the efforts of the Confederates to break the blockade, that it was of a most inefficient character, but at the same time the Government had no desire to press hardly on the Northern States, but hoped that they would be able themselves to settle their difficulties with the Southerners. Whether this struggle ended in the total disruption of or in more firmly cementing the Union, her Majesty's Government would feel that they had done their duty to both sides by preserving a strict neutrality.

After a few words from the Earl of Carnarvon and Lord Kingslow the Address was agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Speaker entered the House at ten minutes before two, and took his seat at the clerks' table, where most of the members present shook hands with him.

At two o'clock Sir Augustus Clifford, the Usher of the Black Rod, appeared, and summoned the Speaker to attend the House of Lords to hear the Commission read.

The Speaker, followed by several members, then proceeded to the Upper House. On his return he simply passed through the House. The right hon. gentleman resumed the chair at a quarter before four.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. C. Turner, as third member for South Lancashire; Mr. E. Potter, for Carlisle; Mr. W. Cox, for Finsbury; Sir R. Clifton, Bart., for Nottingham; Mr. J. Laird, for the newly-created borough of Birkenhead; Mr. F. Vernon, for East Worcestershire; Lieut.-Col. Fane, for Oxfordshire; Sir H. H. Bruce, for Coleraine; Sir P. Burrell, Bart., for Shoreham; Mr. C. Seeley, for Lincoln; and Mr. W. Morrison, for Plymouth.

NEW WRIT.

On the motion of Mr. BRAND, a new writ was ordered for the city of Lincoln, in the room of Mr. Henegau, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds (Mr. Henegau is a candidate for Great Grimsby).

LORD PALMERSTON.

The noble Lord entered the House at twenty minutes past four, and was loudly cheered both from the Ministerial and Opposition benches. He looked extremely well and walked briskly up the House in bringing up papers connected with recent events.

HER MAJESTY'S SPEECH.—THE ADDRESS.

The Speaker having read from the chair her Majesty's Speech, Mr. PORTMAN rose to move the Address. He remarked that many would remember that in 1840 the honourable member who moved the Address referred with confidence to the happiness in store for her Majesty from her approaching marriage. Those hopes had been strictly fulfilled; but it now became his duty to deplore the loss which her Majesty and the country had sustained. He proceeded to notice some of the leading features in the character of the late Prince Consort, referring particularly to his domestic relations, to his extraordinary talents, and his high moral character. Referring to American affairs, he said he did not expect to hear a dissentient voice when he said that the act of Commander Wilks was not to be tolerated, inasmuch as it was a breach of international law and an insult to this country. The conduct of her Majesty's Government was dictated by sound judgment and was the best calculated to secure peace. We had, happily, been spared from a war with America, and he felt sure that all that had been done by her Majesty's Government had received the full approval of the great majority of the country. The loyal feeling exhibited by her Majesty's subjects in British North America was very gratifying, inasmuch as it showed how highly they appreciated the form of government under which they lived, while it had obviated any unpleasant feelings of annexation or invasion. This country had also received from the Emperor of the French a proof of his friendship by the prompt and unmistakable way in which he had expressed his concurrence with the course which this country had adopted. He likewise congratulated the House on the success of the scheme for organising our naval reserve. With regard to Mexico, he believed that the Government had no wish to obtain territorial advantages, but merely to seek redress for injuries received. When these injuries were redressed the Mexicans would be allowed to settle their own form of government. Having adverted to other points of the Speech, the hon. member said he had asked the House to depart from its usual course and to agree to a special paragraph, not as a conventional form of duty, but to give her Majesty an additional proof, if proof were wanting, that her throne, humanly speaking, was based upon the best and surest foundations, and that it rested on the hearts and affections of a free, loyal, and devoted people (loud cheers). The hon. gentleman read the Address, which referred in appropriate terms to the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort, and then touched in the usual form on the other topics in the Speech. He moved its adoption.

Mr. WESTERN WOOD seconded the Address.

Lord Palmerston cordially shook hands with each of the hon. members as he closed his speech.

Mr. DISRAELI said the declarations in the Speech with regard to our foreign relations and our domestic affairs must be held to be extremely satisfactory, though the general condition of affairs was pregnant with anxiety, he hoped not with apprehension. He expressed his belief that the policy of neutrality had been sincerely adopted by her Majesty's Government and sincerely practised, but he thought the practice was in danger. Their policy with regard to the Trent was most satisfactory, and that it was promptly and efficiently carried out he cheerfully admitted. On the other side, the Government of the United States had much to contend against, and he thought a generous interpretation should be put upon what they said, and a liberal interpretation on what they did. The United States' Government, on the other hand, should not take a perverse view of the conduct of the Government of this country. While deprecating any controversial discussion that night, and without offering any opinion on the merits of the case, he thought the Government should give the House the fullest information in its possession on the blockade of the Southern ports. As papers had been laid on the table with regard to Mexico he would not enter upon any discussion, but he thought the House should regard it with anxious consideration, especially as this country was the first to recognise the independence of Mexico, and which appeared likely to be the first to strike at the existence of that independence. The right hon. gentleman then adverted in eloquent terms to the death of the Prince Consort.

Lord PALMERSTON could not permit some of the remarks made by the right hon. gentleman to pass unnoticed. With regard to the dispute between the American States, the noble Earl at the head of the Foreign Office had shown a discretion, a temper, and a dignity which must be gratifying to the country; equal to the occasion, and not exceeding it. From the outset of the dispute her Majesty's Government had preserved a strict neutrality, and from that strict neutrality it was not their intention to depart. They regretted the commercial and manufacturing distress to which the unhappy state of affairs had given rise in England; but they were not prepared, because of that distress, to depart from the course of conduct which they had hitherto pursued. With regard to the Mexican intervention, her Majesty's Government had no other motive of action than that which had been openly assigned, and were no party to any design of changing the form of government and imposing upon the Mexican people a form of government which might not be acceptable to them. With reference to Morocco, he saw no danger or inconvenience in the course taken by the Ministry, and believed that they had acted wisely and prudently in stepping in to prevent a renewal of hostilities with Spain. On the mournful question of the death of Prince Albert, he thought it impossible to exaggerate the consequences of his loss to the country and the Queen. The position which

the Prince held was one of peculiar difficulty. His object was not to place himself too prominently in a political position, but, without intrusiveness, to advance art and education. It was not too much to say that, under his superintendence, the life of the Court had been a model to the people, and that his example had been productive of vast good to the nation. He (the noble Lord) was sure that the House in agreeing to the Address was understanding the feeling of the people, and that, if it had been consistent with the forms of the House, a much stronger expression of sympathy might have been recorded.

After a few words from Mr. HALLIDAY, Mr. MAGUIRE called attention to that paragraph of the Speech which referred to the general prosperity of the country, in stating that, however flourishing the general state of England might be, Ireland, owing to the failure of her last harvest, was almost upon the verge of starvation.

Sir R. PERKINS had hoped that on the first night of the Session hon. gentlemen would have confined their remarks to the topics of the Speech itself. With regard to the position of Ireland, the hon. member had indulged in the language of exaggeration, and had, no doubt, unintentionally put forward many inaccuracies. No doubt there was a considerable amount of distress in Ireland owing to a partial failure of green crops, but, at the same time, there was a superabundance of breadstuffs there, and abundance of money to buy them. In fact, Ireland had never been in so favourable a condition as at the present time.

After a few observations from Mr. V. Scully, the Address was agreed to.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORDSHIRE.—The official declaration of the poll took place at Oxford on Monday, when the High Sheriff declared the numbers to be—Colonel Fane, 1909; Sir H. Dashwood, 1722; majority for Colonel Fane, 187.

SHOREHAM.—Sir Percy Burrell, son of the late member, was returned for the borough of Shoreham on Wednesday without opposition.

COLERAINE.—Sir Harvey Bruce has been returned without opposition.

THE POET LAUREATE AND THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.

A NEW edition of Mr. Tennyson's "Idylls of the King" contains the following dedication:—

These to his memory—since he held them dear,
Perchance as finding there unconsciously
Some image of himself—I dedicate,
I dedicate, I consecrate with tears,
These Idylls.

And indeed he seems to me
Sore other than my own ideal knight,
Who revered his conscience as his king;
Whose glory was redressing human wrong;
Who spake no slander—no, nor listened to it;
Who loved one only, and who clung to her—
Her—over all whose realms to their last Isle,
Commingle with the gloom of imminent war,
The shadow of his loss moved like eclipse,
Darkening the world. We have lost him; he is gone;
We know him now: all narrow jealousies
Are silent; and we see him as he moved,
How modest, kindly, all-accomplish'd, wise,
With what sublime repression of himself,
And in what limits, and how tenderly;
Not swaying to this faction or to that;
Not making his high place the lawless perch
Of wing'd ambitions, nor a vantage-ground
For pleasure; but thro' all this tract of years
Wearing the white flower of a blameless life,
Before a thousand peering littlenesses,
In that fierce light which beats upon a throne,
And blankets every blot: for where is he
Who dares foreshadow for an only son
A lovelier life, a more unstain'd than his?
Or how should England, dreaming of his sons,
Hope more for these than some inheritance
Of such a life, a heart, a mind as thine,
Thou noble Father of her Kings to be,
Laborious for her people and her poor—
Voice in the rich dawn of an ampler day—
Far-sighted summoner of war and waste
To fruitful strife and rivalries of peace—
Sweet nature glided by the gracious glam
Of letters, dear to Science, dear to Art,
Dear to thy land and ours, a Prince indeed,
Beyond all titles, and a household name,
Hereafter, through all times, Albert the Good.

Break not, O woman's heart, but still endure;
Break not, for thou art Royal, but endure,
Remembering all the beauty of that star
Which shone so close beside thee, that ye made
One light together, but has past and left
The Crown a lonely splendour.

May all love,
His love, unseen but felt, o'ershadow thee;
The love of all thy sons encompass thee,
The love of all thy daughters cherish thee,
The love of all thy people comfort thee,
Till God's love set thee at his side again.

REGULATION OF BRITISH NEUTRALITY.—A letter from Earl Russell to the Lords of the Admiralty on the rules to be observed with regard to cruisers of the belligerent parties in America has been published. His Lordship commences his communication by stating that her Majesty is determined to maintain a strict neutrality during the existing hostilities between the United States and the States calling themselves the "Confederate States of America," and, being resolved to prevent any aid being afforded to either of the belligerents, her Majesty has commanded that after Thursday, the 6th inst., certain rules shall be enforced in the United Kingdom and in the Channel Islands, and in our territories and possessions beyond the seas, six days after the day on which they are received by the respective Governments. The first rule refers exclusively to the Bahamas, which cluster of islands has hitherto been a favourite resort of the Confederates. Nassau and the other ports are now to be entirely closed to both contending parties, except by special leave of the Lieutenant-Governor or under stress of weather; but they are to be ordered off again as soon as possible, without being permitted to take in any supplies except those necessary for immediate use. Should there happen to be at the Bahamas any privateer or any man-of-war belonging to both belligerents, no such vessel shall on any account whatever be permitted to proceed to sea until the last preceding vessel of the enemy shall have twenty-four hours' start. This rule is also applicable to merchant-ships. The second, third, and fourth rules have been evidently suggested by the appearance in hostile array in our waters of the Tuscarora and Nashville. By these all ships of war and privateers of either belligerent are prohibited from using any of our home and colonial ports for any warlike purpose, and the twenty-four hours' law is also to be made applicable to both parties, as the case may be, not only in reference to the following of a vessel, but as regards the time of entrance into port—twenty-four hours being all the time that is to be conceded for a stay in any of our harbours or roadsteads, unless in the event of stress of weather or of repairs being required, and then they are to be warned off as soon as the authorities of the port, or nearest port, deem right. There is, however, a saving clause, which may affect a weak vessel when watched by a stronger one. It is this, "And the times hereby limited for the departure of such ships of war and privateers respectively shall always in case of necessity be extended, so far as may be requisite for giving effect to this proviso, but not further or otherwise." The following will put an effectual stop to any lengthened "dodging" of the Tuscarora or any other craft which may in future pursue the same line of tactics:—"No coal beyond that which might be required to convey a ship to the nearest port of her own country, or to some nearer destination, shall be put on board, and no further supply of coal will be permitted to be received by such ship until after the expiration of three months from the date of the former supply."

THE MILITARY ESTIMATES.—The Military Estimates for 1862-3 have been under consideration for the last two or three weeks, and are understood to have been ready for adoption at the Cabinet Council on Friday last week. Every effort in the direction of economy has been made, and possibly in some of the items of supply a sufficient reduction may take place as to bring the grand total of the Estimates under the sum voted last year. The battalions on home service are about to be reduced by sixty men each from the commencement of the financial year; but, inasmuch as four regiments are coming home from India, and those in Canada are to be maintained at a strength of 1200 men each, the total number to be provided for in the Estimates will not, we apprehend, show a reduction.

A YOUNG FELLOW, "well known to the police," who had affected to be especially influenced by the preaching at a late revival meeting in Bristol, having gone into fainting fits, thrown himself across his neighbours' knees, and clutched convulsively at their dress, has been "found out," and apprehended on a charge of theft.

Literature.

The Four Georges. By W. M. THACKERAY. With Illustrations. Smith, Elder, and Co.

Our worst quarrel with this volume relates to the printing, which is large and coarse. The size of page adopted was necessary in order to preserve the illustrations, we suppose, as they stood; and then it became necessary (according to booksellers' notions, and perhaps the vulgar spoiled public's) to spin out the matter in order to make a thickish sort of book. So, big type, such as the Rev. J. C. Ryle prints his tracts in, for old people to read, has been made use of.

Of course, we are not to criticise the "Lectures" themselves. The world has agreed to accept the great sceptical sketcher as a moralist, and here in a few pages you have all his specialities illustrated, the result being a whole which for picturesqueness and suggestiveness is not to be paralleled in any other sketches (known to us) of this sketch-loving time. We must say we like the sketcher's moralising least of all. The man has no vocation that way, and it is only a critical hue-and-cry which has driven him to it. He is a first-rate showman, and can tell a good story in consecutive magic-lantern slides; but he has no creed, no faith. We mean, of course, not that will work up into the forms of art in which he is great; as an artist he has none. Of course, as he grows older and graver, the artist is less and the man is more; while, through the chinks in the work of his hands, we get glimpses of the real, final William, which make us like him better, and think he is not quite so clever and so terrible, after all.

It is hardly necessary to add that this is a book that we gladly place upon our shelves, and that other people may not share our own dislike of large print.

Dinners and Dinner Parties. Published for the Author. Chapman and Hall.

Emphatically this is a "small book on a great subject." One hundred loosely-printed pages only, many of which are devoted to extracts from the best authorities, on any subject save—cookery. Anybody but the author, who makes laws for himself, would innocently have imagined that so small a space should have been devoted exclusively to the important matters mentioned on the titlepage, and that the extraneous pages might have been reserved for little manuals to come concerning ladies' costume or "taste and the musical glasses." Miss Fredrika Bremer is laid under contribution for a page on the duties of wife to husband. Miss Florence Nightingale supplies one page and a half in deprecation of the indecency of present female dressing; and, unacknowledged, there is a page describing the constitution of the Government Education Office, boldly extracted from Mr. Parkinson's useful volume, "Under Government." Then there is a chapter which is more puzzling—seven pages devoted to an abstract of the property left by persons deceased in 1858! and equally unintelligible is the passage referring to "leaders of strikes and factious rabble;" and having some kind of connection with our contemporary the Leeds Intelligencer. Of course we may easily imagine the kind of right which the author imagines his extracts and tables to have to jumble against the dinner-table, and keep the guests waiting. He begins by asserting that, if all women were taught to cook, society would never have been deluged with that "evil" to which we care not more particularly to allude. And so cooking is, doubtless, intimately associated with Miss Bremer's "duty of wife to husband," and capable of reforming the crinoline indecency of which Miss Nightingale complains. By similar reasoning, all Government education should be confined to cookery, and every Chartist would give up the five points on being invested in a suit of calico and a paper cap.

It is impossible not to experience a mixture of pleasure and disgust at this book. "Dinner and Dinner Parties" contains much excellent advice, given with bold common sense, and much nonsense and ill-nature, together with indecency, that can but offend an innocently-ordered mind. The author is prepared to sacrifice everything to his stomach; it is probably the best part of him. Friends must be ruthlessly cut if they give you that "pair of fowls done to rags covered with billsticker's paste." And as for cooks, never on any subject did we meet with so thorough a selfishness and want of Christian charity, couched in so disgusting and ungentlemanlike language. And yet many passages, when the author has chosen to deviate from the quarrelsome testiness of age, are not without an amusing touch of humour, excited principally by plainspeaking. But, as a rule, the writer follows a system which was never pardoned even in so great a man as Mr. Landor: whilst he aims well his fierce logic with one hand, there is an equally successful shower of filth from the other. If his fastidiousness and style of conversation be faithfully mirrored in his volume, he is the last man whom we should wish to entertain at our table. A man who says you must go to Anderson in Holborn for your gin, would consider himself poisoned if you gave him Orme or Burnett; and the same remark applies to all the other tradesmen who are so fastidiously and recklessly puffed in this sensible, nonsensical, little volume. With such good knowledge of cookery, and such fair ideas of what society should be, the author might make a valuable and lasting work. As it is, it is a poor piece of advice to recommend to the majority of English ladies a Belgian cook at £80 per year, "the highest rate of wages known." It is unnecessary for the reader's satisfaction to be told that the late Lord Abinger was remarkably fond of mutton broth. It is a malicious calumny, and apart from the subject, to say that "no burglars ever make an attempt but by the aid of some of the inmates;" and it is stupid to misquote a well-known line into

A want of decency is a want of sense;
and more stupid to say it is written by "one of our best authors," and not to give the name.

THE MINERS' PRAYER.

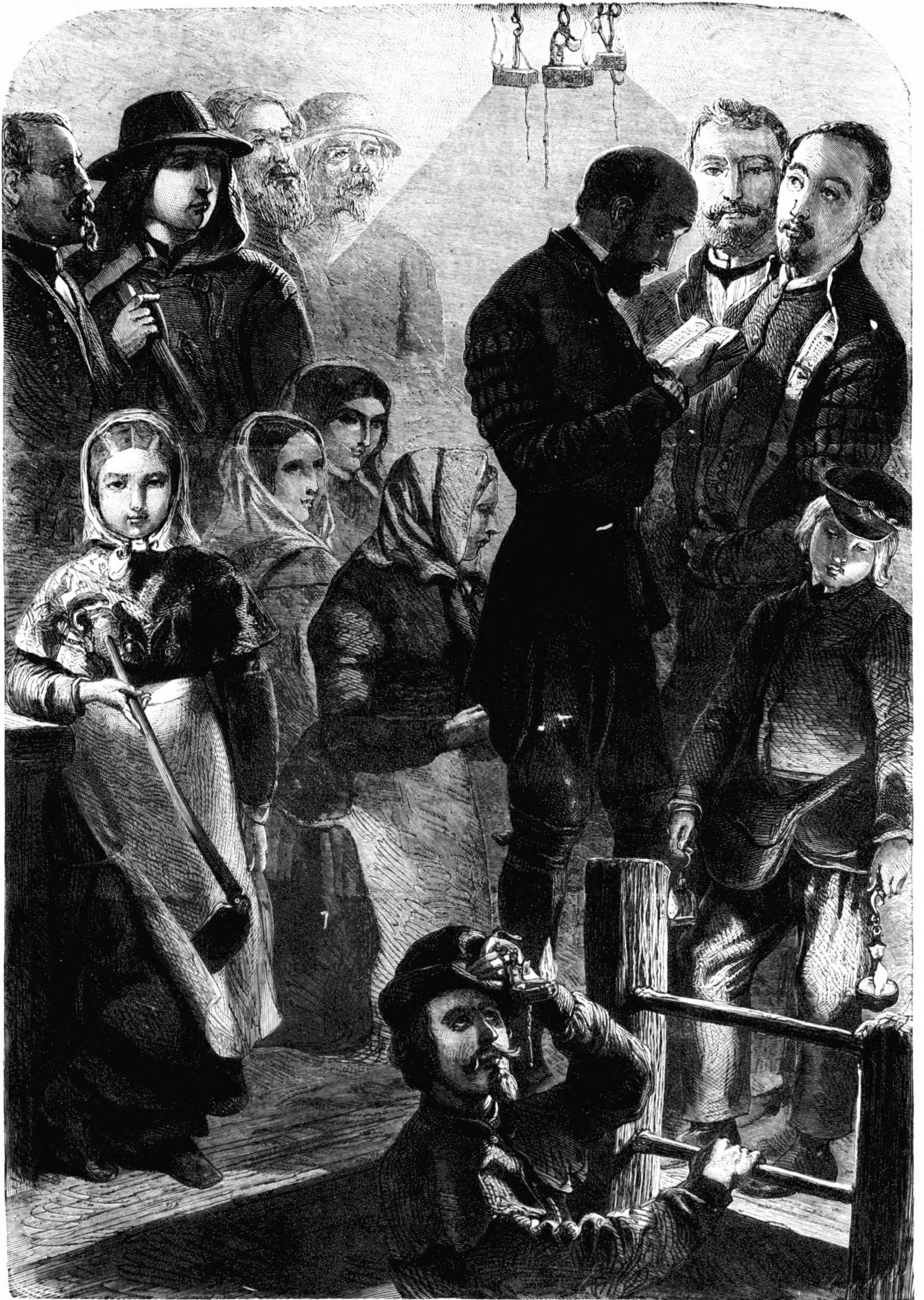
THE terrible colliery accident which has so lately thrilled the heart of the nation is altogether one of those dreadful calamities the details of which require no eloquence of speech, no ornament of style, to bring them home to every one of us. The plain story of those doomed men, waiting with calm resignation the result of such efforts as they knew were being made in their behalf, is a narrative which records a heroism as distinguished as that which, displayed on the field of battle, is attended with a more splendid recognition.

It will be long before the solemn and touching picture of those strong men waiting for death, and holding the prayer meeting in their living grave, will fade away; long before the recollection of the sympathy which wrung from our noble Queen that true womanly cry of pain and grief ceases to appeal to the nation.

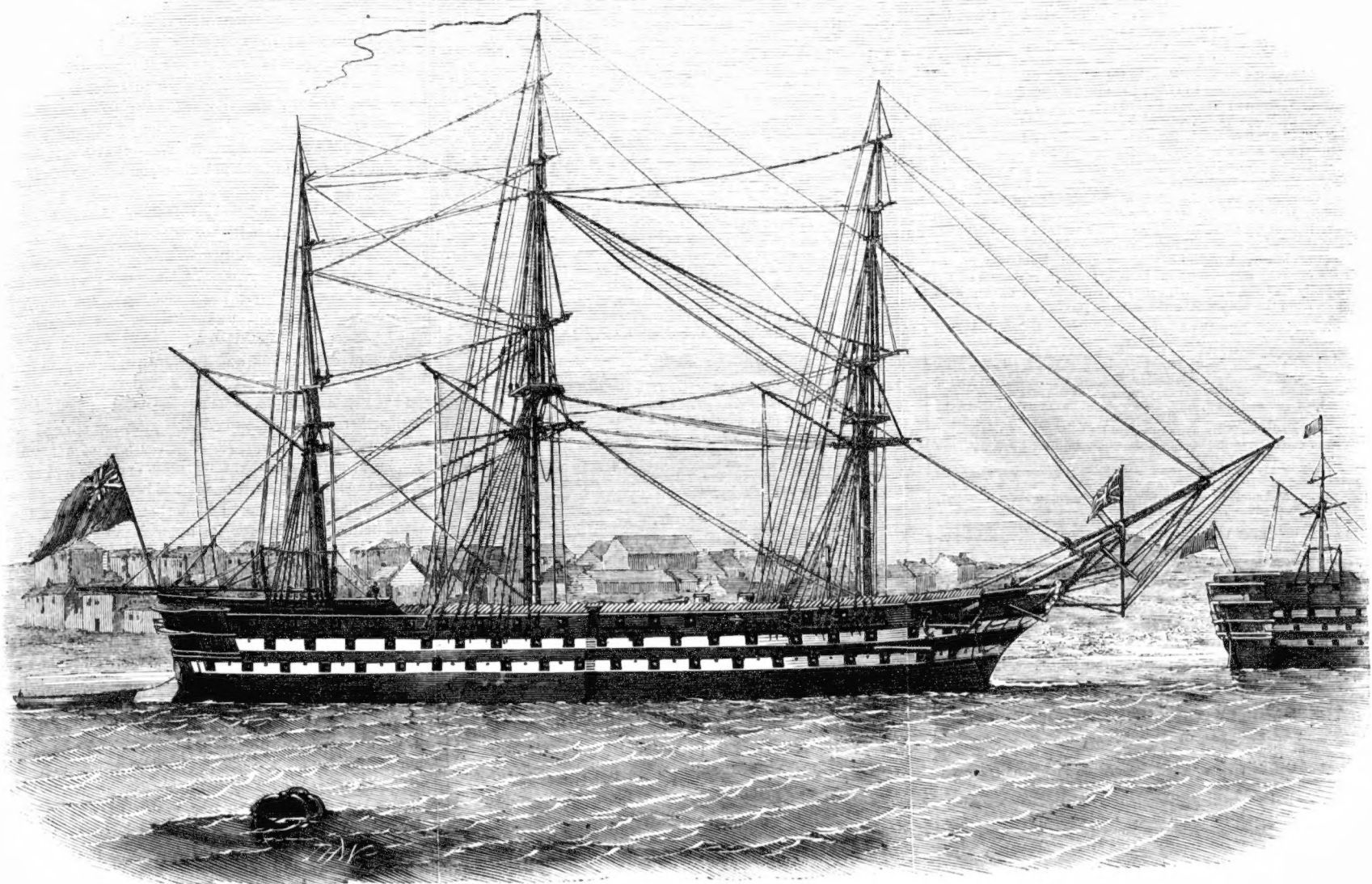
It is little wonder, either, that these men should so calmly betake themselves to prayer and wait the end; they must, many of them, have looked death in the face before, and there is often a strong sound religious belief among our miners which robs danger and even certain death of half its terrors.

Among the Cornish miners the preachings of John Wesley and his followers are remembered with all the ardent interest which moved men's hearts under Wesley's earnest language, and the seed sown by the travelling preacher bears good fruit in many a wild and rugged community still.

Surely the common dangers of their daily life, the gloomy solitudes in which they often work, must have some influence even upon the most careless of men in other lands than our own. The miner commends himself to God before his descent into the earth, feeling that he may never again see the light. Our engraving represents a party of German miners engaged in the morning devotions which are held before the day's work begins.



THE PRAYER OF THE GERMAN MINERS BEFORE DESCENDING THE MINE TO WORK.



HER MAJESTY'S SHIP CONQUEROR IN THE HAMOAZE, PLYMOUTH — (FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY GROOM AND CO.)



THE HARTLEY COLLIERY ACCIDENT.—REMOVAL OF THE BODIES OF THE SUFFERERS FROM THEIR DWELLINGS.

THE LOSS OF THE CONQUEROR.

As briefly mentioned in our last Number, H.M.S. Conqueror was wrecked on the Rum Cay, in the Bahamas, on the 13th of December. The Conqueror was a fine ship, some six or seven years old, carried 101 guns, and formed part of the fleet destined for the coast of Mexico. The Bahama or Lucayo Islands, a group of nearly 500 islands or islets (called *cayos*, or keys) in the Atlantic, comprised in the West Indies, and belonging to Great Britain, are mostly situated between latitude 21° and 27° N., longitude 71° and 79° W., and separated from Cuba and Florida on the S. and W. by the Great and Little Bahama Channels. They are frequently the scene of wrecks, and some of them were at one time—and may be still—frequented by a race of hardy and almost lawless men, who followed the occupation of wreckers as a profession. San Salvador, one of the group, was the first land discovered by Columbus, in 1492. Most of the islands are mere coral reefs, though some of them are of considerable extent. The first English settlement on these islands was made in 1629; in 1781 they were in the possession of Spain, but were restored to England in 1783. The following letter, which has been received from one of the Conqueror's crew by a resident in Dover, gives some details of the ship. Happily no lives were lost, the whole of the crew having been safely taken from the ship before she went to pieces:—

Rum Cay Islands, in the Bahamas, Jan. 1, 1862.

One of the finest screw line-of-battle ships in her Majesty's service—the Conqueror, 101 guns—three days ago in the highest state of discipline and preparation for war, with nearly 1400 persons on board, is now a useless wreck. Luckily, the weather is tolerably fine, or we should have fared badly, the current having set us twenty miles out of our reckoning.

We ran ashore on a coral reef, and in spite of all our exertions there she lies—the water up to the low-water mark, her sides bilged in, and her back broken. We have sent a boat to Nassau and another (in which this is to be sent) sails to-morrow morning at daybreak for Jamaica, in time, I hope, to save this mail.

We are all ashore now, with the exception of the Commander, one midshipman, and ten men. We have all been working hard to get the provisions ashore, and shall be able to save all our gear (private, I mean), with the exception, of course, of our ale and wine, all of which the Captain saw hove overboard, himself lending a hand. The spirits in the spirit-room, wine, &c., were next broached and started over, and all hands set to work clearing the ship.

I have no time at present to say much, as it is very late, and this is the third night that I have passed without sleep—the first two of which were passed in the open air on deck, so I must now say "Good night and good-bye" for the present, hoping that these few lines will set you at ease in case you should hear any exaggerated yarns about hands being lost.

EDWARD P. WILLIAMS.

We have engraved a Portrait of the Conqueror as she lay in the Hamoaze at Plymouth previous to her departure on the voyage which has proved so disastrous to her.

THE HARTLEY COLLIERY ACCIDENT.

THE FUNERAL OF THE SUFFERERS.

THE greater portion of the bodies of the victims of this sad disaster were interred at Earsdon in a piece of ground given by the Duke of Northumberland for the purpose. A portion of them, however, were consigned to their last resting-place in some of the neighbouring churchyards. Our Engraving represents the removal of the bodies from the village of Hartley. A local journal thus describes the melancholy ceremony:—"The arrangements for the interments were of the simplest possible character. It being designed that the bodies, with a few exceptions, should be buried at Earsdon, a large number of carts had been provided for the conveyance of the remains to their last resting-place. Between one and two o'clock these vehicles were drawn up before the cottages to receive their respective loads, amid an immense assemblage of spectators. The last painful parting of bereaved relatives from the remains of their loved and lost ones was witnessed by the onlookers with unmistakable emotion, and many an eye little used to weeping dropped a tear over the distressing scene. At last the preliminary proceedings, including in many cases devotional exercises, were completed, and the melancholy cortege slowly moved off to the place of interment. The carts, carrying two, three, or, in some instances, four coffins a piece, followed one another at irregular intervals, each being closely followed by relatives and friends of the poor fellows whose bodies it conveyed. Past the colliery, amid dense crowds of sympathising spectators, the procession straggled slowly along, taking the route past Avenue-row, along the Avenue, and by the Shields and Morpeth turnpike-road to Earsdon churchyard. At various points along the route additional carts fell in as the cortege passed the cottages which had contributed their mournful loads simultaneously with this. Another procession, precisely similar in its character, was advancing by another route from Old Hartley. Arrived at Earsdon, where the blinds of the windows were all drawn in respect to the dead, the stream of carts gradually accumulated in front of the churchyard gates till, presenting nearly the whole of the coffins at a glance, they gave the spectator a terribly vivid idea of the extent of the calamity. With the exception of a few cases in which families possessed burying-grounds in the churchyard, it had been arranged that the bodies should be deposited in a sloping plot of ground to the north side of the inclosure, kindly granted for the purpose by the Duke of Northumberland. Unfortunately, the formation of the graves had proved a work of unexpected difficulty, owing to their having in great part to be cut out of stone, and the task was not completed when the coffins arrived on the ground. The graves consisted of pits of various sizes, some, intended for family groups, being made to receive two, three, or four coffins, and others capable of containing from thirty to forty. During the afternoon the operations of the workmen employed in the excavations had been watched by an immense crowd of spectators, and the number of these was considerably increased after the arrival of the funeral procession. The cortege, on reaching the churchyard, was received by the Revs. Messrs. Mason, Jones, and Carr, the last-mentioned gentleman a brother of Mr. Jones Carr, viewer of Hartley Colliery. The burial service was at once proceeded with, in the presence of an overflowing congregation, Mr. Carr taking occasion to address to the people a few practical remarks suggested by the melancholy event. After some delay, the operation of consigning the bodies to their last resting-place was commenced, under the direction of Mr. Hugh Taylor, and as each pit was filled one or other of the rev. gentlemen just mentioned read the concluding portion of the burial service over the remains committed to its keeping. Besides the bodies interred at Earsdon, being those of by far the greater proportion of the lost miners, a few—not more than twenty, we believe—were conveyed to other churchyards in the neighbourhood, such as Cowpen, Seaton Sluice, and Cramlington."

THE INQUEST AND THE SUBSCRIPTION.

The inquest on the Hartley Colliery accident began on Monday last, at Seaton Delaval, in the immediate neighbourhood of the accident. The evidence then taken was confined to the breaking of the engine beam, the state of the shaft previous to the accident, and the condition in which it was found when Mr. Coulson and his intrepid band went down to examine and clear away the obstruction that proved so fatal to the miners. It is expected that the inquiry will last for several days. The inquest was continued on Wednesday, when evidence was taken as to the state of the shaft before the accident and the quality of the iron of which the fractured beam was composed. A Mr. Taylor, a coalowner and viewer, testified to the excellent state the shaft was in when he went down on two occasions within the last eight months, and said he did not think the pit was at all dangerous to work in. Mr. Hoskyn, the chief engineer with the eminent firm of Hawks, Crawshaw, and Sons, of Gateshead spoke to the quality of the metal of which the broken beam was made. He did not think the slight fall of the beam about a month before, when

it was intended to remove the decayed brasses, could have had any injurious effect on the beam. Had the fracture occurred then it would have manifested itself long before. He thought the beam was injudiciously poised; and the sudden snap of the pump-spear bringing the beam down violently upon the chocks, on a day when the frost was very intense, was, in his opinion, the real cause of the accident.

We may here also allude with gratification to a statement made by the Lord Mayor from the bench of the Mansion House on Tuesday, that since he announced his willingness to receive subscriptions on Friday week—that is, ten days ago—the sum of £10,000 had been received, subscriptions flowing in at the rate of £1000 a day. And this sum was entirely spontaneous: no effort was made anywhere; he only accepted what people chose to send, and he was gratified to say that the subscriptions had come from all classes—the very paupers in the workhouses insisting on sending their mite. This is a splendid tribute to English charity. On Wednesday, notwithstanding the statement of the Lord Mayor on the previous day, the subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers by the Hartley Colliery accident continued to flow in as fast as on previous days, and the sum received during the day was £1350, making an aggregate total of £11,630. The sum collected in Liverpool exceeds £3000; and as contributions are being made by almost every city, town, village, and district in the kingdom, there can be no doubt that ample funds to make all the compensation possible to the friends of the sufferers will be forthcoming.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1862.

THE RECOGNITION QUESTION.

It may readily be anticipated that the propriety of the recognition by England of the seceded Southern States will be urgently pressed upon Ministerial attention on an early day in Parliament, and in prospect of such a discussion a few words on the matter may not be out of place here, though we do not pretend to advocate any particular course for the Government or the Legislature to follow, but only to develop a few ideas bearing upon this certainly very grave subject. Indeed, we feel pretty certain that the rule of non-intervention will be rigidly adhered to, at least for the present, and perhaps wisely; but the subject is one that must be discussed and settled some time or other, and we may just as well address our minds to its consideration now as at any future period.

The point is one of which the Federal States do not attempt to disguise the importance in the pending struggle. They frankly avow that such a recognition would so far strengthen the hands of the South as to delay that long-promised total and complete victory with which they delight, prospectively, to gladden their imaginations. Nay, more, they threaten, through their official mouthpiece, Mr. Seward, that the recognition would be treated as a *casus belli*.

As for the threat, that may be dismissed with contempt, so far as it may be intended to deter England from acting upon her own ideas of moral right and international duty. It serves, however, to show the high rate at which the Northern States esteem the value of the reception of the South into the circle of independent nations. But this estimate may be, and possibly is, exaggerated. To most practical intents and purposes the recognition has been already granted, and by no nation to a greater extent than by the Federal Government itself. Their whole view of the Trent affair, not only in the capture but in the release of the prisoners, was based upon the assumption of the Southern States being actually belligerents. The neutrality of Europe proceeds from the same point. How is it possible, from the very meaning of the word *neuter*—*ne uter*—to apply it in a case in which the existence of only one party is recognised? It is the merest idleness for the North to affect to treat secession as a rebellion. Rebellion implies lawful sovereign power against which to rebel; while here we have an assemblage of States of equal rights, of which a portion claim to withdraw from the community. It is a national partnership, either determinable at will (in which case it is a wrong for the continuing partners to insist upon others remaining in the firm), or it is not so determinable, for which case between such parties neither law nor war is likely to afford a remedy. The Federals choose to consider it not a social partnership, but rather as a marriage, utterly irrevocable by the will of either party. They arrested Mason and Slidell as "ambassadors" and as "embodied despatches;" they send their war-steamer into our waters and harbours to watch and to lay themselves out for capturing the vessels of the South. What is this but recognition? If the South be merely held by certain rebels against the sovereignty of the States, what ground can this afford for capturing Southern merchantmen on the high seas? They may have broken blockade; but that only proves the inefficiency, and consequently the invalidity, of the blockade. As to Southern privateers, if unrecognised, they are nothing but pirates; and the course would be, not to lie watching them in a friendly harbour, but at once to proceed to obtain their condemnation by maritime law as pirates, common enemies of all nations. But the Federals would scarcely go so far as to condemn as pirates the

crew of the Sumter, for instance, even if captured. If, therefore, the North sets this example of recognition, how can it be expected that other nations will not follow? As for us, the Royal declaration of neutrality was a recognition of the belligerent position of both parties at the onset. Suppose, for instance, that an insurrection were to break out at Lyons or Marseilles, and to give the Emperor some trouble in its repression. Would not a declaration of neutrality in such a case be a direct notification to Paris that the rights of the insurgents were held to be at least equal to those of the Government?

Europe has hitherto beheld this illogical contest—this burlesque of a civil war—with the most exemplary patience. She has watched with pain, if not with disgust, a campaign from which chivalry, the very pride of European warfare, appears to have been banished. She has gazed upon the merciless and continuous slaughter of pickets—upon the avowed, if not actual, permanent obstruction of harbours—upon the wanton burning of defenceless and inoffensive merchantmen—upon the ignominious retreat at the first chance of decisive battle. She has listened calmly, alike to the most ruffianly bluster of the Northern journals and to the grievous cries of her own operatives debarred from work by the loss of a staple withheld, burned, and destroyed by both one side and the other. And, in the midst of all this, she has been content patiently to submit to the evils inflicted upon her, to respect a blockade that is neither effective for its avowed purpose nor observed by the very parties who have imposed it. How long is this state of things to last?

Considered as a matter of right, it may well be questioned whether Europe is bound to observe the blockade at all, seeing that the Federals themselves disregard it every day; and certainly, as a matter of favour, neither party has the slightest claim to consideration. The sole questions for the consideration of neutral Powers are the general laws of the world and their own voluntary will and obligations. If these do not stand in the way of disregarding the blockade and admitting the Confederates to all the advantages of recognition as a *de facto* State, there is nothing in the position or conduct of the Federals that can bar the free action of England or any other Power in the matter. We should be sorry to see any step taken, simply because we suffer severely in consequence of the unhappy quarrel in America, that would be inconsistent with the laws of nations, or that would throw a slur on the character of Great Britain; but that there is anything in the conduct of the Americans to entitle them to special consideration, we confess ourselves unable to see. At all events, there can be no doubt that the subject will be closely canvassed within the walls of Parliament ere long; and, whatever the result of that discussion may be, we feel satisfied that it will not be unworthy of the British Senate and people.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE MAUSOLEUM FOR THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT was commenced last week. It is to be erected in the grounds at Frogmore, within a short distance of the one lately put up for the Duchess of Kent.

REAR-ADMIRAL AUGUSTUS LEOPOLD KYPKE, C.B., is likely to succeed Rear-Admiral Sir John Hope, K.C.B., in the command on the East India and China station, in place of Rear-Admiral Stopford, whose appointment has been cancelled at his own request.

THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY contemplate erecting two additional forts near Sheerness, to be mounted with Armstrong guns of the largest calibre, for the better protection of the estuary of the Thames and the Medway.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN has sent the decoration of the order of the Golden Fleece to the Crown Prince of Prussia.

THE NEW KING OF MADAGASCAR has dispatched a special message to the Emperor of the French by M. Lambert, an eminent French merchant, who is stated to have exercised an important influence over late events in Madagascar.

M. CHARLES PHILIPON, the French caricaturist and founder of the *Charivari*, died a few days ago in Paris.

MR. W. F. WINDHAM has returned to his seat in Norfolk. On Saturday he appeared in the Norfolk Corn Exchange.

THERE is a movement among the tenantry of the late Mr. Sharman Crawford for the erection of a suitable and lasting monument to their former landlord.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has entered into negotiations with leading capitalists in this country for a loan of £4,000,000 sterling, with the object of promoting the financial measures of M. Fould.

A VETERAN OF THE "GRAND ARMY," the Prince Augustus de la Tour and Taxis, who was an Aide-de-Camp to the Duke of Leuchtenberg, has just died suddenly at Munich of apoplexy.

LOD LYNDBURST is confined to his house by a slight attack of gout, but in other respects is in excellent bodily health.

It is said that Michelet has retired from the fatiguing life of a Parisian litterateur to the tranquillity of a villa in the neighbourhood of Toulon, where he is writing "The Monarchy of Louis Quatorze."

THE POPE refuses to preconise the Abbé Monique, just appointed Bishop of Martinique by Napoleon III., and will not condescend to give any reasons.

GYMNASTICS are to be introduced as a compulsory branch of education in schools of every degree in Prussia.

ANOTHER CONFEDERATE VESSEL has arrived at Liverpool, having eluded the blockading squadron at Charleston.

M. ALEXANDRE DUMAS has arrived at Turin for a few days. His ordinary residence is still the Palace Chiatamone at Naples, where he is engaged in writing a history of the Bourbons, compiled from the Neapolitan archives.

SALICETTI, one of the triumvirs of Rome in 1849, has just died at Turin. He was one of Mazzini's most ardent partisans.

AN EAGLE, aged thirty-two years, died at Duff House, Banffshire, a few days ago.

VENUS, the evening star, has been visible for some time during the day lately. There has been no similar case recorded since the days of Tycho Brahe.

THE EMPEROR ALEXANDER has just ordered a sum of 20,000 roubles to be given from his privy purse to the poor inhabitants of Warsaw, and particularly to the workmen who are out of employment.

THE STATUE OF DR. JENNER, which had been erected in Trafalgar-square, has been suddenly removed to a new site in Kensington Garden.

THE OPERA OF THE "HUGENOTS" has lately been produced at the San Carlo Theatre, Naples, for the first time, its representation having been prohibited under the Bourbons on the pretence that the libretto was irreligious. The house has been crowded to excess since the production of this favourite opera.

THE VALLEY OF THE DANUBE, near Vienna, was inundated last week, and communication interrupted. Prague also was inundated.

WILLIAM CARTER, a well-known London thief, has been sentenced to three months' hard labour for picking the pocket of Sir R. Mayne, chief commissioner of the metropolitan police.

MR. PAUL MORPHY, the celebrated American chessplayer, who was expected on another visit to Europe, has entered the Federal army. HENRY PHILPOT, of Worcester, took his seat in the House of Commons at the opening of Parliament, and will act for the present as Chaplain. THOMSON, who has recently been consecrated Bishop of Gloucester and Exeter, will remain without a seat until one of the stipulated vacancies occurs.

THE WESTMINSTER BRIDGE IRONWORKS were totally destroyed by fire on Friday night.

THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF THE DELHI PRIZE-MONEY is at last in course of distribution. It amounts to about £8 14. or £8 5s. for a private native soldier, and twice as much for a European. The English officers' shares will be in the proportion of one sepoy's share for every shilling of their day's pay, which gives about £100, or rather less, to a Captain.

PETER SIMPSON, charged with attempting to poison his wife and son at Stafford, has been discharged, in consequence of no evidence being forthcoming to connect him with the attempt. A suspicion has arisen that Mrs. Simpson herself knew more about the arsenic being in the teapot than she cared to confess.

THE PRODUCTION OF BEER IN BAVARIA has lately increased very considerably. In the first quarter of 1861 the tax on malt produced 1,500,000 schillings more than in the corresponding period of 1860.

THE SENTENCE OF DEATH on William Malony, convicted some time since of the murder of his wife in Westminster, has been commuted to penal servitude for life.

THE OPINION OF TURIN publishes a statement of the receipts of the railways throughout Italy worked by the State, from which it appears that the net revenue from this source rose in 1861 to 21,008,389*l.*, being 1,906,617*l.* more than in 1860.

G. GREEN, the sailor charged with the murder of Enos Seth, the steward of the sloop *British Queen*, has been committed by the Liverpool borough coroner for trial on the charge of wilful murder.

MR. CLAYDON, a barrister practising in the Wolverhampton district county courts, has been disbarred by the Benchers of Lincoln's Inn for undertaking cases without the intervention of an attorney. Does not this look very like preclaiming a man a "knobstick" for breaking the rules of a trades' union?

IT APPEARS from statistics just published at Rome by the General of the Jesuits that the total number of members of the order at the end of 1861 was 221, of whom 2203 were Frenchmen.

TEDDINGTON, the winner of the 1851 Derby, was recently purchased for the Emperor of Austria, the price being £1700, and on being landed at Antwerp he fell into the dock and narrowly escaped drowning.

OFFICIAL RETURNS show that the number of births in the twenty arrondissements of Paris during the year 1860 was 51,036, and of deaths 41,261, the difference being 9795 in favour of births. Out of total births 14,992 were illegitimate. In 1860 seven persons died in Paris aged from 95 to 100 years.

ALL POSTMASTERS IN ENGLAND AND WALES at whose offices money-order business is transacted are now permitted to purchase postage-stamps from the public if not soiled or otherwise damaged, at a charge of 2½ per cent, the charge, however, never to be less than one halfpenny.

JACK FOLEY has been committed for trial on the charge of murdering John Peerce at Dorington, Shropshire, as reported by us last week. Peter Foley, the prisoner's brother, was discharged for want of evidence against him.

AT THE COALMINE OF SEGRABEN, near Leoben (Styria), a hut erected at the mouth of the pit caught fire, and the smoke and gas were driven by the wind into the workings, where a hundred men were engaged at the time, twenty-eight of whom were suffocated; the others with difficulty escaped.

THE PRIVATE BANKRUPTCY OF PETER MORRISON, late of the Deposit Bank, came before Mr. Registrar Miller on Saturday last. The Commissioner would not allow the proceedings to be got rid of until the bankrupt had presented himself for examination. The examination meeting was fixed for the 15th instant.

THE CATHOLIC BISHOP OF MONTREAL has addressed a letter, in the name of his co-religionists, to Lord Monck, Governor-General of Canada, expressing the most profound sympathy with the Queen in her recent bereavement and the warmest attachment to her throne and person.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

REMOUR says that Disraeli means to make a formal attack upon the Government for sending troops to Canada after news had arrived from America that the Trent difficulty would in all probability be peacefully solved, and that he hopes to catch some votes from the radicals below the gangway. But it is hardly believable that the Conservative leader can contemplate any such rash move, for he surely must by this time have learned that in such a question the bulk of the Conservatives would be sure to support the Government. He had better adopt a frank and magnanimous policy, and join in thanks to the Government for its promptitude and dispatch. This would pay him best in the long run. Whether the dispatch of troops after the reception of the pacificatory message were right or wrong, I do not pretend to decide; but Mr. Disraeli will get nothing out of such a move as that which he has been said to contemplate. My own opinion is, and I have taken some trouble to ascertain how the land lies, that no serious attempt will be made to disturb the Government, and that if any attempt should be made it will ignominiously fail. Lord Palmerston was strongly intrenched in power at the close of the Session of 1861; but he appears to be impregnable now. This American affair has been a very fortunate business for him. Besides, the Queen's loss and the forthcoming Exhibition will very much tend to mitigate political rancour and induce the Conservative leaders, although they are strong in numbers, to postpone all thoughts of a coup-d'état to a more convenient season.

The Conservative Party has not grown in numbers during the vacation. It has gained votes in Lancashire, Birkenhead, and Oxfordshire; and it has lost in Lincoln and Plymouth. This seems to give it at first sight a gain of one; but the case really stands thus:—The Liberals have gained two old seats, making four on a division. The Conservatives have gained one old seat, making two on a division, and two new seats, which makes each only one in a division; and thus the Conservative gain is four, and just balances their loss. Still, I fancy that the Conservatives are rather stronger than their opponents, though it is difficult to calculate exactly with the present popularity of the Premier.

Mr. Caird, though member for Dartmouth, an English borough, is a Scotchman. He is a good speaker of the quiet sort, and always gets the ear of the House, because it is known that he has something to say and something worth hearing. His speech at Dunfermline last week was one of the best of the vacation speeches. Mr. Caird, like Mr. Baxter, has been to the United States; travelled extensively there, and travelled with his eyes open. Mr. Caird sympathises with the North entirely, and, in a very able manner, gave his reasons for feeling thus strongly. Some weeks ago there was a very prevalent feeling that, on the meeting of Parliament, a strong pressure would be put upon Lord Palmerston to induce him to force the blockade of the Southern States; but this feeling has vanished, as I foretold it would. There will be a good deal of talk upon the subject, and opinions will be expressed by some that England ought to interfere between the belligerents; but so many members have pronounced against intervention that it is now seen to be quite evident that the non-intervention policy will be urged by such a vast majority that even if the Government were inclined to intervene it would be quite impossible. Men are coming to see what this war really means; and that, though it is not a war for the direct abolition of slavery on the one side and for its preservation on the other, slavery is the cause of the war nevertheless; that it is, in fact, a war on the part of the North to circumscribe the pest and to prevent its spread—a struggle of the Free-soilers against those who would allow the deadly virus to spread all over the States, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian boundary. This is what the South has been aiming at for years; and when the election of Lincoln, a determined Free-soiler, disappointed their hopes, they rushed into rebellion.

A word for a very worthy man. It was right to present a testimonial to Mr. Milner Gibson; but there is another man, though in a much humbler sphere, whose services ought not to be forgotten—I mean the indefatigable secretary, Mr. Collett. Very few know how

zealously and unweariedly this gentleman has laboured, and with what ability he has fought this big battle against the taxes on knowledge, and how much he has contributed to the success of the fight. He has been paid, I suppose; but, now the fortress has been won, I think he ought to share the spoil. I scarcely know Mr. Collett; but I hear on all hands the highest praise of his ability and zeal.

It is impossible to deny a tribute of admiration to Mr. Charles Reade. He is the personification of English pluck, and would have won Dr. Johnson's love, for assuredly he is an "honest later" of all humbug and trickery. No game is too large nor too small for his rifle. People may remember some years ago how he fired at the *Saturday Review*, which had been cutting him up, and wrote a letter commencing "*Saturday Review*—You have brains of your own, and good ones. Use them, and do not echo the bray of such a very small ass as the *Edinburgh Review*." Now, he stoops to Conquest—that is, he pleads his cause in person, and obtains an injunction against Mr. Conquest, the lessee of the Grecian Saloon, for having dramatised one of his stories without his permission. And, the action gained, Mr. Reade publishes in the *Era*, the recognised theatrical organ, the following highly-characteristic advertisement:—

READER V. CONQUEST.—The plaintiff in this case warns dramatic pirates that his stories "Clouds and Sunshine," "Per Wellington," "Christie Johnstone," "White Lies," "Art," &c., are all founded on registered plays, and the indirect appropriation of a single character, or scene, or vital situation in them will instantly be followed by an injunction and an action at law. The exceptions are "Love me Little, &c.," and "The Cloister and the Hearth." These excepted, it will be perilous to dramatise this author's works without his consent. Nor is it the least necessary. He is as open to fair and loyal dramatic business as to any other.

Mr. Reade has done good service to his brother-novelists, and spoiled the market of the scissors-and-paste playwrights. Any author who believes in the dramatic situations of his own story has only to extract such portions and give them a dramatic shape, and he can set all the dramatists at defiance.

The *Literary Budget* (which is now a capitally-compiled monthly summary of literary intelligence, and has some fearless and clever original articles) is in error in classing the baronetcy of Sir C. Wentworth Dilke as among the honours bestowed on literature. Mr. Dilke, the father of the Baronet, is the proprietor of the *Athenæum*, and has written much and learnedly on the Pope era and the authorship of Junius, on which subject he probably knows more than any man alive; but Sir Charles has never attempted authorship. He was the originator of the Exhibition of 1851, and devoted all his time and talent to its successful organisation. The sum which was offered to him as a reward, and which he declined, was £3000, and not £6000, as originally stated. The same periodical speaks eulogistically of Mr. Edward Lear's "Book of Nonsense," and with reason; but it should not be forgotten that these nonsensical pictures and rhymes were originated eight years ago in a most amusing book called "Ridiculous Things," by Mr. John Parry, who is not only the best English buffo singer that ever lived, but an excellent artist, and a man of real genuine humour.

The dedicatory verses to the memory of the Prince Consort in the new edition of the "*Idylls of the King*" are exquisite in their simple pathos and their fine poetic ring, and come with double welcome after the rush of "God bless our widowed Queens," and all the wretched nonsense poured forth in halting verse and in indecent haste. Mr. Tennyson has, perhaps, never done anything better than the following passage:—

Not making his high place the lawless perch
Of wing'd ambitions, nor a vantage ground
For pleasure; but thro' all this tract of years
Wearing the white flower of a blameless life,
Before a thousand peering littlenesses,
In that fierce light which beats upon a throne,
And blackens every blot.

And the concluding blessing is full of solemn tenderness and beauty. I would suggest that Mr. Moxon's house should issue this dedication, well printed on a separate slip of good paper, at the price of 6d. The "*Idylls*" is comparatively a new book, and but few of us can afford to buy a new edition for the sake of the dedication, while all would willingly pay a trifle for a good copy of it, which could be gummed on a flyleaf of the original copies.

Mr. Mudie must look to his laurels, which stand a chance of being cropped by the new Library Company, and to his assistants, who stand a chance of being kicked by some irate customer. If you want to see the true superciliousness of the British counter-jumper in full force, you will find it at Mr. Mudie's; the "dogs in office" there bark not only at beggars but at subscribers. Mr. Mudie has undoubtedly done a great deal for the public, but his business has grown too large, and monopolies are always bad things for everybody but the monopolist. The new Library Company promises well; the capital is to be £100,000, in £1 shares: Mr. Coningham, M.P. for Brighton, is the chairman; and Mr. Fowler, of Australian-travel celebrity, the secretary.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER. THE MAGAZINES.

Blackwood has wooed back to its pages its old contributor Sir Bulwer Lytton, who this month commences a series of essays called "Caxtoniana: Essays on Life, Literature, and Manners." His subjects this month are "The increased attention to outward nature in the decline of life," and the "Differences between the urban and the rural temperament." What is to be said of them, save that in their philosophy, style, and treatment they are thoroughly Bulwerian and wholly unnatural? Sir Edward's daylight has a strong glare of gas in it; there is a smear of tinsel and rouge all over the shepherds and shepherdesses, and general evidence of artificiality. This number sees the conclusion of two stories, "Wassail" and "Captain Clutterbuck's Champagne." There is a very clever paper on "Physicians and Quacks," the writer of which, while paying but little compliment to the faculty, reassures us by stating that, little as is the knowledge of the physician, it is of infinitely greater value than the pretensions of the quack, who, "having never studied the organism in health and in disease, is simply as ignorant as yourself." A new portion of the chronicles of Carlingford, called "Salem Chapel," is commenced this month, and promises well. The defence of Canada forms the subject of the concluding paper.

The most remarkable contribution to the new *Fraser* is an article on "The Contest in America," by Mr. John Stuart Mill, which will probably exercise a great deal of influence, and which is dead against the Southern secession. An addition—the pleasant gossip of past days, which has been recently running through this magazine—is now made in an article called "The Editors and Newspaper-writers of the Last Generation," where we find many quaint reminiscences of Fennerty, Cobbett, Barnes, Sterling, and the bygone *Dix Majores* of the Fourth Estate. Very good, too, is a paper called "The Muse of the Drawing-room," in which attention is goodhumouredly invited to the preposterous character of most of our drawing-room songs. Continuations of "Helata" and "Barren Honour," a review of Mr. Helps' "Spanish Conquest in America," a good biographical and critical sketch of Lord Herbert, with one or two minor papers, make up the contents of a very good number.

The *Cornhill* is not very lively this month; for even "Philip" is scarcely up to the mark, and the other contents are not very interesting. The article on "Fish Culture" contains much novel information, and there is food for reflection in the paper on "Commotions in Lunacy," but they are rather of the read-because-there's-nothing-else-near kind of literature than in themselves attractive. Mr. Doyle's caricature—this month representing "Society in Belgravia"—is happier than usual.

An essay on "Domestic Life" in *Temple Bar* is remarkable for the

lugubrious view taken by the writer. After examining domestic life throughout the world he says:—"Domestic life perfected in the really happy home: this is the *récherché de l'absolu* which each human heart enters on; but who can lay his hand upon the spot and say it is there? I do not believe in happy homes. Why, then, swear that the mirage is living water?" This is healthy philosophy with a vengeance! A history of the life-boat, a chatty paper on happy mesalliances under the title of "The Loves of the Lords and the Ladies," a strange bit of real life, temp. French Revolution, called "An Unworshipped Hero," and the continuation of Mr. Sala's story, "Aurora Floyd," are among the contents. Also some society-verses, "Invited and Declining," and a poem, "Haunted London."

The features of interest in the *St. James's* are a good, short story by the author of "East Lynne," and a paper on the blind poor.

In the *Sleeping Magazine* the story of "Lady Radley's Secret," commenced in the defunct *Robin Goodfellow*, is here commenced *de novo*, and its continuous publication promised.

The new year has brought with it several new periodicals. Foremost among these is one which has been extensively advertised, called *London Society*. It is printed in double columns, on the *Fraser* principle, and has several illustrations, some of which are very good. The literary contents are very poor, amateurish, vapid, and dull, reminding one strongly of the old kind of magazine-writing in the days of the *Obit* and the *Parterre*. There is a miserable attempt at a legend in the Ingoldsby manner, which does not even scan. There is no rule without an exception: the critique on the theatres is cleverly and fearlessly written.

The *Planet*, a monthly magazine, conducted by Mr. M'Nicol, and published by Messrs. Groombridge, possesses no novel feature save its singular cover.

Finally, everybody's old friend, Mr. Lever, comes forth with a new work, called "Barrington," in the old familiar pink cover, and with the usual engravings by Phiz.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean have returned to London after a long absence, and appeared at DRURY LANE.

A COMMITTEE OF WORKMEN has been formed in Paris to enable three workmen from each special trade to visit the International Exhibition, with the view of noting and reporting on any improvements or inventions they may think valuable to their fellow-workmen.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held on Thursday at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapraan, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the chair. A letter was read from Sir George Grey, Bart., M.P., Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, to the Duke of Northumberland, president of the institution, stating that he would lay before her Majesty the loyal and dutiful address of the Royal National Life-boat Institution on the occasion of the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort. Rewards amounting to £18 were voted to the crews of the life-boats of the institution stationed at Southwold, Eastbourne, Cardigan, and Tyrella (Dundrum Bay) for rescuing sixteen lives from the wrecked vessels—barque *Druid*, of Sunderland; brig *Pioneer*, of Carnarvon; schooner *Princess Alice*, of Ipswich; and schooner *Bellona*, of Liverpool. The schooner *Book of Liverpool*; schooner *Chance*, of Preston; and several fishing-boats had been assisted into port by the *Dundalk*, *Lytham*, and *Fuley* life-boats of the institution. Rewards amounting to £51 were likewise voted to the crews of the society's life-boats stationed at Carmarthen Bay, Lytham, Tunby, Tyrella, Newcastle (Dundrum), Youghal, Southport, and Aberystwith for putting off with the view of rendering assistance to vessels in distress, which did not, however, require their services. Various other rewards were also voted for laudable services in saving life from shipwreck. Within the past month the institution has established a life-boat station at Kingsgate, near Margate. Another was about being inaugurated at Plymouth, the life-boat of that station being the magnificent gift of Miss Burdett Coutts. During the past two years upwards of 1000 lives had been saved by life-boats alone from various shipwrecks on the coast of the United Kingdom. A letter was read from the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty granting permission to officers and men of the Navy to wear the medal presented to them by the institution for their intrepidity in saving life from shipwreck. Payments amounting to £170 having been made on various establishments, the proceedings terminated.

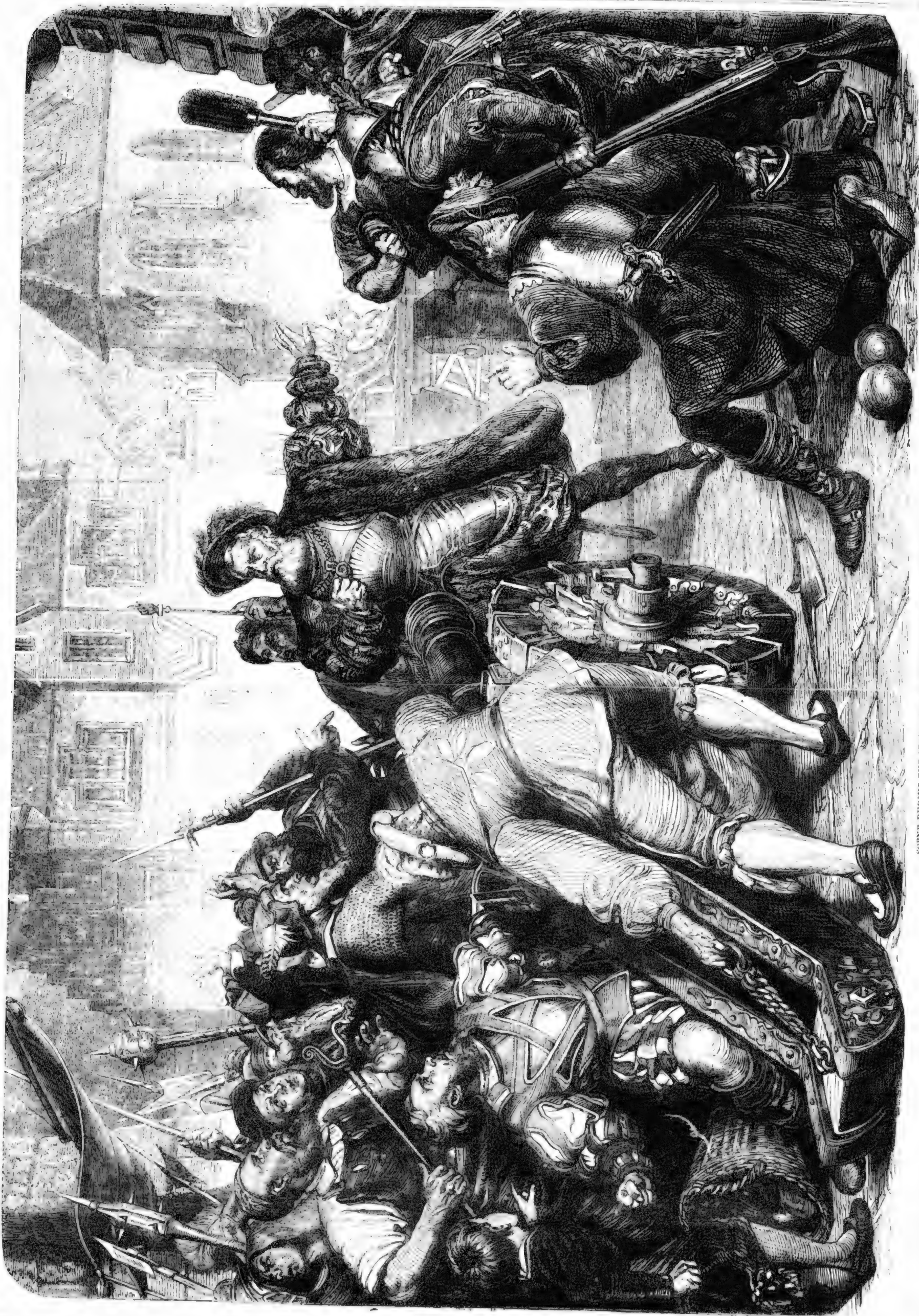
THE REFORMATION IN SWITZERLAND.

AFTER the battle of Cappel had placed the Reformation on a firm footing in Switzerland, and after Zuinglius had sealed his doctrine with his blood, a formidable reaction rose in most of the Swiss towns. The convents which had been demolished were restored, the Catholic service was again established, and many Reformers were brought to the scaffold. In Solothurn the followers of the old religion rose in vengeance against the Reformers. The dwellings of the reformed clergy were plundered, and an appeal was made to the Council for the restoration of the mass in the Church of St. Ursus. Meanwhile the five towns, Uri, Schwyz, Unterwalden, Lucerne, and Zug (the Catholic League of Switzerland), submitted to the people of Solothurn their choice, either to pay a tax of eight hundred crowns or to abjure the Reformed worship. The Council, assailed by both parties, wavered in indecision; but at length the Mayor, Wengi, a well-meaning and unprejudiced man, with the view of bringing the matter to a satisfactory result, recommended the Reformers to pay the required sum, and thereby to purchase the freedom of religious worship. But the fanaticism of the opposite party threw obstacles in the way of this arrangement, and mutual animosity increased to such a degree that a conflict seemed inevitable. At midday on the 30th of October, 1532, the Reformers, determined on defending their religious privileges, assembled in hostile array near the arsenal. The Catholics immediately mustered to oppose them. The Mayor, Wengi, with indefatigable earnestness, addressed himself first to one party and then to the other, and at length he obtained a promise from both that they would lay down their arms and submit the question in dispute to the consideration of the Great Council. However, distrust again arose, and the Reformers withdrew to the suburb, and destroyed the bridge across the Aar. The fury of their opponents knew no bounds. The arsenal was forcibly entered, and guns were planted on the bank of the river. Already a ball had reached the ranks of the Reformers on the opposite bank, when the Mayor appeared, and, placing himself before the mouth of the second gun about to be fired, he exclaimed, "Spare the blood of your fellow-citizens, or first strike me down!"

The infuriated multitude was appeased, and dispersed. The night passed over quietly, and on the following morning the chief Reformers were summoned to appear before the Great Council. They, however, showed themselves disinclined to obey this summons; and, as it was evident that the greater number of the inhabitants of Solothurn were devoted to the old religion, the minority who adhered to the new faith were bound down to the observance of rigorous regulations which left them no alternative but to submit or to emigrate. More than seventy families quitted the town, and the Romish Church recovered its supremacy in Solothurn.

Thus much in explanation of the picture from which our Illustration is engraved. The history of the heroic Mayor, Wengi (as Wengi, as the name is sometimes spelt), still lives in the traditions of Switzerland, and is everywhere popularly current. This circumstance absolves the painter of the picture (and, we may add, ourselves, as we here reproduce it) from any intention to glorify or commemorate the triumph of Catholicism over the pure spirit of the Gospel. The picture, as our woodcut shows, is one of high dramatic effect. The fury of blind fanaticism which pervades the motley multitude is admirably characterised in the individual figures. The grouping is excellently arranged, and there is a portraitlike animation in the countenances of the figures. The costumes and other accessories of the picture are historically correct.

The artist, Bosart, is one of the most distinguished of the Munich school of painters. He is of Swiss family, and several of his former works represent subjects connected with the history of his mother country.



SCENE DURING THE STRUGGLES OF THE REFORMATION IN SWITZERLAND IN 1529

THE MUFFIN-MAN.

Who does not remember the reduced gentlewoman, immortalised by Charles Lamb, who, having been brought to poverty, and seeking some alleviation by the sale of muffins, was wont to go upon her beat after dark, and in a voice scarcely elevated above a whisper sing "Muffins oh! crumpets oh!" with the parenthetically expressed hope that nobody heard her?

Truly there is no calling in life which, in itself so melancholy, is at the same time so suggestive of comfort as that of the vender of these indigestible comestibles.

As his tinkling bell rings a feeble accompaniment to the lugubrious cry which heralds his way along darkening streets, warm curtains are drawn aside, revealing through the lower windows cosy interiors where the tea is being made, and waiting only for the luscious crumpet to complete the repast.

Bright broad patches of firelight shining out upon the sloppy pavement, or the freshly-fallen snow in the roadway, exhibit the master of the house enveloped in an atmosphere of ruddy warmth, his slippered feet reposing luxuriously upon the fender as he reads the last new magazine, while waiting for the pouring out of the fragrant tea.

Willingly he will wait another ten minutes for the muffin simmering in the hot plate, and, as regardless of consequences as was the gentleman whose history was related by Mr. Samuel Weller, gloat lovingly over the pastry treat.

Do muffin-men themselves ever consume their own manufacture? Have they, during that long and bitter walk through London streets in the melancholy gloaming visions of an humble fire-side where they may thaw into social companionship? or do they cherish against a society which demands muffins a revenge that makes their avocation pleasant, knowing, as they must, that the luxurious propensity is dearly purchased by the nightmare of regret? Let us hope that no such inhuman senti-

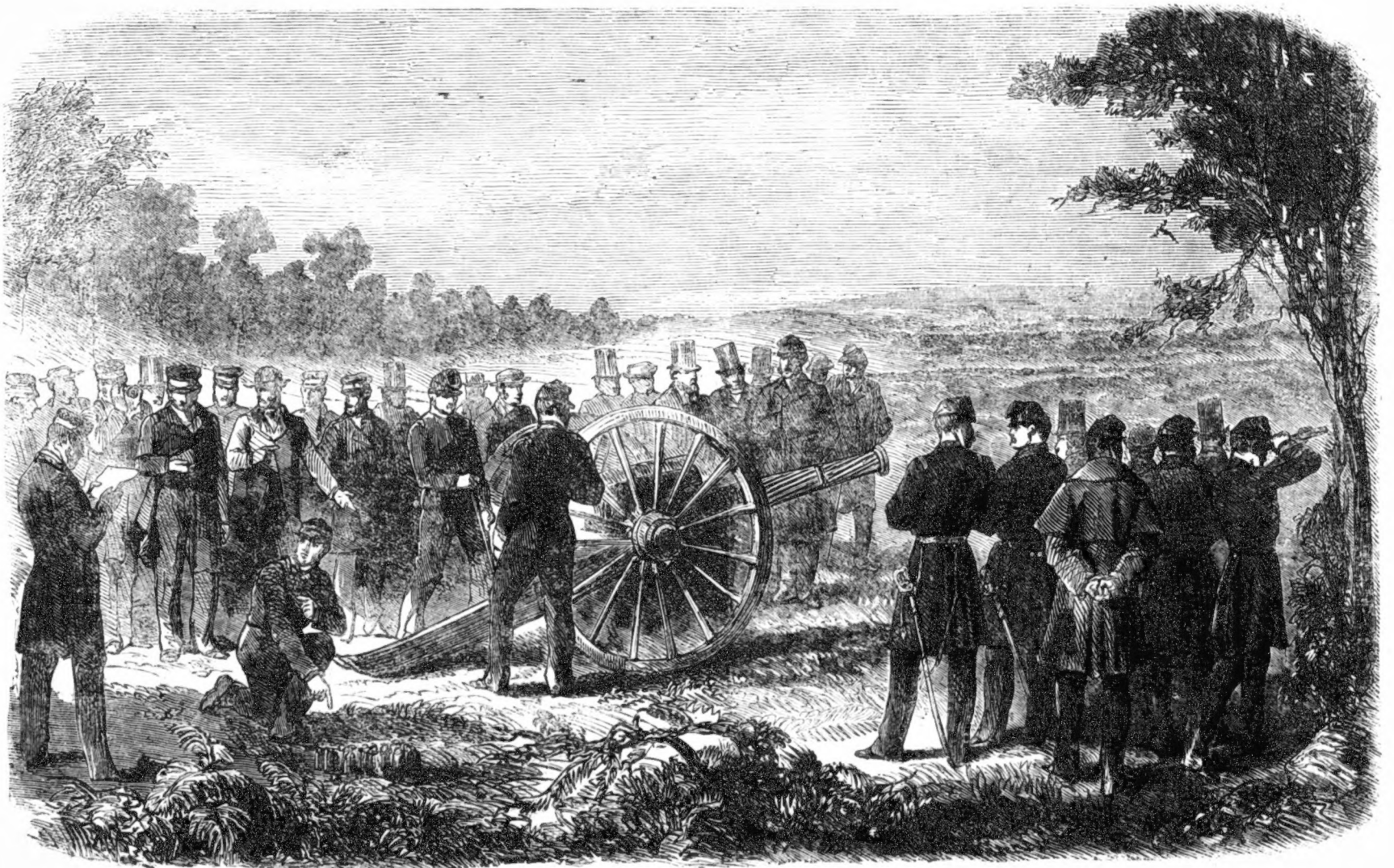
ments actuate his breast—that his faith in the light and nourishing nature of the food he sells supports him through his cheerless walk with the consciousness of inward virtue.



THE MUFFIN-MAN.

THE TRIAL OF THE NEW REVOLVER CANNON.

NOTWITHSTANDING the partial successes of the Federal army the result must long remain doubtful, since, though an advance continues to be promised, so much remains to be accomplished that the issue still appears to be remote. It is pretty certain, however, that they are better provided with the material for war, as the Confederate forces have been until very lately provided only with such arms as they could muster at the outset, many of them almost useless in any regular engagement, where they would be opposed to the Enfield rifles of opponents, who are supplied by the Hamburg steamers with new pieces and large stores of ammunition. The American inventors, too, have perfected two or three rather formidable engines of destruction, amongst which the new revolver cannon is said to hold the highest place. Hitherto the great difficulty with which the inventors of new guns have had to contend has been the rapid heating of the metal after several rounds of firing, and it has long been thought possible to adopt some method by which a regular ventilation of the gun might be established, an improvement which Mr. Brame claims to have effected. In calculating the explosive force of the powder, Mr. Brame has discovered that, at a certain distance from the chamber where the explosion takes place, the propulsive power is neutralised by the atmospheric pressure which is exercised upon the projectile as it issues from the gun. From this it would appear that, from the point at which the explosion takes place, the tube is useful more to regulate the direction of the projectile than to increase its range. Mr. Brame's gun is pierced spirally throughout its length in a manner corresponding with the spiral bands on the bullets, and in such a way that, while the air compressed in front of the projectile escapes on all sides, the exterior air penetrates into the tube and neutralises the



TRIAL OF BRAME'S REVOLVING CANNON IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF NEW YORK.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. SAINTIN.)

heat generated during the combustion of the powder. Repeated experiments have been made at New York; first before the superior officers of the American army and after wards in the presence of some of the officers of the French marine service. The results, as officially stated, are confined to two assertions which seem to have been fully verified—first, that, whatever may have been the number of rounds fired, there has been no augmentation of heat discovered by the placing of a hand upon the gun; secondly that the gun does not recoil, and may consequently, be fired over and over again without fresh pointing. It may also be remarked that the common stock of the six-revolving chambers, being stationary, is also constantly ventilated, and remains as cool as the cylinder itself.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

WE can heartily respond to the language of a morning contemporary who finds "unusual pleasure in recording a performance of the Sacred Harmonic Society at which the oratorio given was neither 'The Messiah' nor 'The Creation.'" It is more than seven years, we believe, since Exeter Hall resounded with the massive harmonies of Handel's "Deborah." The work is characterised as much by the strength of its choral passages and accompanying instrumentation as by the general feebleness of its solo parts. "Immortal Lord of earth and skies," the chorus with which the oratorio opens, is one of the grandest that Handel ever wrote. In it the Israelites are heard supplicating the Almighty to raise up a chief whom they may follow to victory against their oppressors. The chorus, a double one, requires great proficiency in the singers who undertake to render it with such full effect as was aimed at on Friday week, and it is no slight praise to say that the execution came nearly up to the desired mark. The audience appeared to be deeply impressed by this and by the succeeding chorus, "Forbear thy doubts. To arms! away!" The two five part compositions—"Let thy deeds be glorious," and "Despair all around them," which last concludes what was originally called the "first act"—were sung with admirable completeness, and proved that the Sacred Harmonic Society does not absolutely need familiar music in which to show itself at home. A still finer piece of harmony than any we have named opens the second part of the oratorio. This is the chorus "See, the proud chief advances now!"—a surpassing example of contrapuntal capacity and of a graphic genius in music. It is rather a happy distinction of the two first parts of this oratorio of "Deborah" that the choruses run in an order of progressively-increasing merit. The most striking, certainly, of the whole series is the fierce invocation of their god by the priests of Baal. This was rendered with such dramatic energy that it was encored by the entire hall. After it, and in noble contrast, comes the solemn prayer of the Israelites, a majestic piece of eight-part harmony, soon to be followed in turn by the chief remaining choruses of this portion, "The Great King of Kings;" "Now the proud insulting foe;" and the final "Hallelujah." The third division of the work is remarkable chiefly for its opening chorus, a triumphal expression of joy. Its exultant character was fully supported by the voices of all the singers, though it may be fairly questioned whether the abrupt resort to pianissimo, as a suitable effect for the phrase, "Prostrate in the dust," is not an unwarrantably *ad captandum* expedient. We have spoken of the solo pieces of this oratorio as being for the most part inferior in vigour of conception to the choral passages. The best airs for single voices are—"All danger disdaining," which occurs in the excessively difficult part of Barak, filled on this occasion by M^{me}. Sainton-Dolby; "At my feet extending low," sung by M^{me}. Laura Baxter, in the part of Sisera, with such effect as to win an encore; the plaintive bass song, "Tears such as tender fathers shed," which was given with an expressive and touching earnestness by Mr. Lewis Thomas; and the bravura songs which fall to the share of Deborah, and which Miss Parepa dashed off with her accustomed facility and nonchalance. The services of Mrs. Temple, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Smythson were advantageously bestowed on the subordinate characters of the sacred drama. We have only to add that the leadership of Mr. Costa was as usual distinguished by care and decisive energy, though some of his additional accompaniments were more calculated to display the strength of the orchestra than to develop any apparent idea springing from the master-mind of Handel.

The "Popular Concert" of last Monday at St. James's Hall drew a crowded audience—that is to say, it was a Beethoven night, which means the same thing. The quartet in C, No. 9, of the set which the great master dedicated to Prince Rasoumowski, opened the evening's performance. This composition, which owes its greatest charm to the mystic loveliness of the andante movement, but which has, independently of that captivating feature, a sustained force of attraction which always commends it to a public hearing, was excellently played by M^{ms}. Sainton, Reis, Webb, and Paque. The fugato of the last movement was so brilliantly wrought out by these executants that a call was raised for its repetition. The compliment was, however, passed over with the simple acknowledgment of a bow, the leader (M. Sainton) declining the encore. It is, by the-by, creditable to the audience of the Monday Popular Concerts that M. Sainton is with them as great a favourite as any violinist of meteoric fame. A conscientious artist, he maintains his high standing in the estimation of that portion of the public—now happily a large one—which is capable of discernment. His part in the sonata in E flat, op. 12, dedicated to Salieri, was worthy to be matched with the pianoforte-playing of Miss Arabella Goddard. This lady amply recompensed her admirers for the disappointment which her non-appearance has caused them for two consecutive weeks. In the duet we have named she bore her share with full honours; and her performance of the great "Sonata Appassionata," in F minor, op. 57, was as magnificent a triumph of solo-playing as even she has ever achieved. The singers were Miss Banks and Mr. Weiss. It being only the instrumental portion of the concert that was devoted to the music of Beethoven, a judiciously-varied programme of vocal pieces relieved the monotony of perfection. The lady, who seems to have a partiality for Dussek, sang his canzonet, "Now summer has departed," as also Mr. Henry Smart's graceful song, "Dawn, gentle flower." Mr. Weiss chose for the exercise of his cultivated powers the song, "When Bacchus invented the bowl," from Macfarren's "Don Quixote," and the effective but now tolerably well-known "Wanderer" of Schubert. In both songs Mr. Weiss gained an encore, which he was obliged to accede to. The concert was brought to a close by the stringed quartet in D, op. 18, the finest of Beethoven's first series.

The "recitals" by Mr. Charles Hallé of Beethoven's sonatas have apparently suggested to Herr Ernst Pauer a more comprehensive series of pianoforte performances, in which he intends to give an exposition of the entire history of classical music, from the beginning of the seventeenth century to the present day. The plan adopted by Herr Pauer is both chronological and national. Each concert is devoted to one country, and includes the whole of that country's musical annals. Thus on Saturday morning Herr Pauer commenced his labours by illustrating the genius of German composers. Those who were represented on the occasion were Keri, Frobergner, and Kuhnau, the inventor of the sonata; Sebastian Bach, the pupil of Kuhnau, and Bach's own pupils, Krebs and Kirnbirger; Mozart, together with his greatest admirer, Müller, and his chief pupil, Hummel; and, finally, Henselt and Thalberg, who, as pupils of Hummel, made up a perfect chain of connection between the early days of the harpsichord and the latest history of the pianoforte. Instruments of four different dates were used by Herr Pauer in this interesting exposition—the first being a harpsichord manufactured in 1731. The Italian schools will furnish material for his next concert.

To-day (Saturday) the experiment of an opera, with scenery and dresses, will be tried at the Crystal Palace. The work, though complete in itself, is, however, so slight as to be practically adapted

to the resources of a concert-room. Mr. Howard Glover's graceful little piece, "Once too Often," which was produced not long ago at Drury Lane, is the operetta chosen for representation at Sydenham; the artists being the same who contributed to its success "on the regular boards"—namely, M^{lle}. Jenny Bauer, Miss Emma Heywood, Herr Reichardt and Herr Formes.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND SPEECHES.

MR. BARNES, M.P., AT BOLTON.

Mr. Barnes, M.P., addressed his constituents at Bolton on Thursday week. His speech was an exposition of the principal questions of the day. He showed how the Commercial Treaty with France had almost counterbalanced the loss of our trade with America. He protested most emphatically against any attempt to break the blockade, and argued that even if the blockade were broken it would place within our reach only a temporary and limited supply of cotton. It was, he said, the continuance of the civil war, not the existence of the blockade, which curtailed the supply of that commodity. After pointing to India as the hope of Lancashire, and especially advocating the opening up of the Godavary, the hon. gentleman concluded by appealing to the Northern States to adopt a thorough anti-slavery policy.

MR. CAIRD AT DUNFERMLINE.

Mr. Caird, the well-known agriculturist, addressed a meeting at Dunfermline a few days ago on the American question, which he examined from two points of view—the lower ground of interest and the higher one of morality and justice. He maintained that the raising of the blockade would be fatal to British interests, the more especially because war with the United States would close the granaries of the West and deprive England and France of supplies of corn, which are indispensable to the comfort, if not the existence, of the industrious populations of both countries. He delivered an emphatic testimony upon the cruelties of slavery, and urged upon the North to make emancipation the great object of the war.

MR. ANGERSTEIN, M.P., AT GREENWICH.

On Monday Mr. Angerstein addressed his constituents at Greenwich on the present state of public affairs, dwelling at some length on the death of the Prince Consort, the accident at the Hartley Colliery, and the avoidance of the war with America. On this latter subject Mr. Angerstein expressed his opinion that our true policy was to let the hostile parties fight out their quarrel, and not to interfere even with the blockade.

LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the annual meeting of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, held on Monday, American affairs came under discussion and elicited considerable difference of opinion, though a general feeling appeared to prevail that the rule of belligerent rights required amendment. It was stated by the chairman that the council of the Chamber were almost unanimously of opinion that "private property should be respected at sea, and that it would be to the advantage of this and all other countries that this should be the principle of belligerent rights." A letter from Mr. Cobden was read, strongly in favour of the views stated by the Mayor to be held by the council, and the hon. member for Rochdale urged that the question should be discussed in Liverpool before the sitting of Parliament. It was the operation of the "stone fleet" at Charleston on which the difference of opinion was expressed, but on the matter of non-intervention there was a unanimous feeling in its favour.

THE HOP DUTIES.

The hop-planters continue to press on their agitation for the repeal of the duties on both the home and the foreign grown article. Meetings have been held within the last few days at Canterbury and Farnham, at both of which several members of Parliament were present, and at each the following resolutions were adopted:—"That the hop duty is becoming year by year more intolerable and unjust to the planters and all interested in the cultivation of the plant, and ought to be abolished." "That a deputation be appointed from the hop-growing districts to wait upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request him to provide in his next Budget for a repeal of the duty, and that memorials to the same effect be forwarded." The speakers urged that free-trade principles should be applied to hops as well as to other articles; at present the Continental grower had this important advantage over his English rival, that he could bond his hops and only pay the duty when they were sold, whereas the English hops were assessed as soon as they were picked on the field, whatever might be the chances of subsequent sale.

MR. T. G. BARING AND MR. S. GURNEY AT PENRYN.

These hon. members met their constituents at Penryn on Monday evening. Mr. Baring was the principal speaker, and dwelt upon the Trent affair and our relations with America, in regard to which he approved the conduct of the Government and supported non-interference. The Reform Bill, he said, had been talked out of the House of Commons because the people did not demand it. He did not expect that Government would introduce any measure on that subject this Session; but he should support any rational proposal that might be made. With regard to taxes and armament, he said England could not afford to see herself behind any other power in her naval and military strength; and if we could not combine low taxation with efficient armaments we must be content to pay the taxes, for we must have the armaments. After alluding to the subject of education, the hon. gentleman expressed his confidence in Lord Palmerston, to whom he should give a cordial support. Mr. Gurney's remarks had reference principally to local matters.

MR. BRIGHT AND MR. ADDERLEY AT BIRMINGHAM.

The anniversary of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce was celebrated on Tuesday evening, when Mr. Bright, M.P., in replying to the toast of "The Borough Members," regretted that there was not in nearly every town a chamber of commerce, sitting as a committee of vigilance, watching the progress of all questions affecting the industry of the country, and he thought the different chambers might be associated on a broad and liberal basis with the best effect, because what affected one trading community affected all. The Corn Laws and the Tariff were essentially political questions, yet they had been discussed with advantage by chambers of commerce; but such chambers had been feeble, and consequently disregarded, because they had not sufficient self-respect; or did not appreciate the duties they had undertaken, and they sometimes subordinated the interests of commerce to the temporary interests of particular parties. Three or four years ago chambers of commerce took up the question of maritime law, urging that war should be confined to vessels armed for war, and that nobody should interfere with the property being innocently carried across the ocean. It was argued against this view that you should do as much harm as possible to your enemy; but if this should be the rule at sea, why not also upon land, where the property of private persons was respected? If England were superior in power and mischief on the sea, was she not also the most powerful in the amount of property at sea? We had, probably, property worth a hundred millions sterling at sea, and in the event of war with a country like the United States we should doubtless receive more damage to our commerce than we could inflict upon them. The growing expenditure of the Government was another question with which chambers of commerce might deal. The question of cotton supply was another that might be dealt with. Mr. Bright recalled his plan for dividing India into separate presidencies, each with a government of its own, and expressed a belief that if the committee he obtained to inquire into the growth of cotton in India had led to its legitimate results we should have had plenty of cotton at the present moment. A world of nonsense had been talked about American affairs; the blockade of the Southern ports had been declared ineffective, and yet the effects of its ineffectiveness had been deplored. No blockade had ever been so effective over a similar extent of coast. At this moment the population of the States now under the Washington Government was greater than that of all the States in 1850. All the maritime wealth and power now belonged to the North. The people of Lancashire considered that England's interference in the American struggle meant war, and that such interference would be fatal to their best interests. If cotton were now a shilling a pound it could not be got through war at less than five shillings. There were thousands of families not knowing where to-morrow's food was to come from; yet it would be the cheapest thing England ever did to subsidise those families until better times came rather than encourage an unjust and violent attempt to break a legal blockade and declare war against a people anxious to be friendly with us, and engaged in the patriotic endeavour to maintain the integrity of their Government and sustain the permanence of their Union. The interests of Lancashire depended at this moment absolutely upon the principle of friendly neutrality being maintained by this country and Government. He was gratified with the way in which the distressed operatives bore their privations. Many of them had saved money during better times, and their ordinary employers possessed great wealth and benevolence, with the will to render necessary assistance. In conclusion, Mr. Bright said that if chambers of commerce would regard these questions more broadly, if they would forget the Prime Minister and the hopes of a coming election, if they would divest themselves of party considerations and regard themselves mainly for the time as the guardians of commerce, they would exercise more self-respect and assert their views with more firmness, and they would have greater weight with Government and Parliament. They

they could represent opinions which official statesmen had not the means of learning, and they should bring all their intelligence, and energy, and truthfulness, and earnestness to bear on the procuring of such laws as would benefit the great body of the people.

Mr. Adderley delivered a forcible speech upon a subject which he thoroughly understood—the relation of the colonies to the mother country. He protested against the restrictive tariff which some of the colonies (Canada, for example) have chosen to adopt, and argued that the colonies generally should be self-supporting, and not, as they now are, a heavy source of expense to the English people. These views are at once just and statesmanlike.

A WHOLESALE MURDERER.

ONE of the most extraordinary careers of crime which the records of prisons and scaffolds can reveal has just been discovered in France. In the neighbourhood of the great commercial city of Lyons lived Martin Dumollard, a being who is now proved to have been carrying on a trade in murder for years back with as little scruple and almost as much regularity as an ordinary poacher follows his occupation. As Burke and Hare, the Edinburgh murderers, whose crimes used to thrill the last generation, destroyed their victims for the sake of selling the bodies, so Martin Dumollard pursued his bloody industry chiefly for the clothes of his victims. It is now some seven or eight years since Dumollard went into what one is tempted to describe as the slaughtering business. He lived in a lonely part of the country, on the outskirts of a forest. He had a wife, but no children. He was ostensibly a labourer cultivating a small patch of ground, but he seldom worked at the ground, and did not seem to care for employment from the neighbouring farmers. When offered such employment he generally demanded higher wages than the current rate, and so got free of the unpalatable job. Farmers who had offered him work described him at the trial as a sombre, uncommunicative, down-looking man, who, on meeting any one, generally strove to avoid observation. He made no acquaintances; and, to quote the phrase of one witness, "was silent and sullen in church or public-house." It was observed by many of his neighbours that he rarely went out until dusk, and almost always returned late at night. It was rumoured, too, that he was in the habit of ill-treating his wife. Cries were heard late at night issuing from their lonely, dreary cottage. No suspicion, however—none at least amounting to more than the vaguest conjecture—seems to have attached itself to the habits and character of Dumollard. From time to time, in the neighbouring towns, young women used to address themselves to the police authorities and report that they had escaped from a robber and murderer. In every case the story was the same. A girl, apparently a domestic servant, was accosted when on the way to Lyons by a country-fied looking, very ugly individual, having a singular and conspicuous deformity on the upper lip. This person described himself as in the employment of a country gentleman, or farmer, and on the look-out for a domestic servant. By the apparent simplicity of his manners the girl was induced to believe his story and to accompany him. In some instances the decoy and the victim went by railway to a neighbouring station and there got out. Then, in the dark, and when crossing the skirt of a wood, the unsuspecting bonnie saw her guide suddenly fall behind and a lasso was immediately flung over her head. Some of these girls were stout, strong, active young countrywomen. They succeeded in escaping the lasso and fled from the murderer until they came in sight of the lights of a house or within hearing of voices, and then the pursuer desisted. Some of them left a bundle of clothes or a purse behind them in their flight. Some only escaped, bruised and bleeding, after a struggle of terrible length and danger. But all described, when in safety, the same kind of man; and yet, somehow, Dumollard escaped identification. The seventh girl who escaped, Marie Pichon by name, and the circumstances of whose struggle and flight would strongly remind a reader of a recent celebrated case in Dublin, fixed by her narrative a decided suspicion upon the criminal. Then came the arrest of Dumollard and his wife; the discovery in their miserable cottage of whole piles of miscellaneous feminine gear; a search in the forest, and the gradual finding and exhuming of dead body after dead body, the victims of the hideous trade which had been going on. The details of these discoveries are given in the French newspapers with a minuteness which we do not venture to reproduce. Enough to say that there is already evidence to show that Dumollard decoyed and murdered six girls whom he stripped and buried with his own hands; and that the names and marks on some of the feminine garments found in his house point to a belief, only too probable, that the discovery of other murders will yet be made. At the close of the trial Dumollard was condemned to death, and his wife to twenty years' imprisonment, with hard labour. The murderer asserts that he was the hired agent of parties in Lyons, who, after serving their own sinister purposes, allowed him to retain the clothes of the victims as his reward. This is not credited. Dumollard admits that he accosted upwards of one hundred women at Lyons, but that, fortunately for them, all did not consent to follow him. "Else," he added, "my associates would have caused them to undergo the same fate." He has signified his determination to appeal to the Court of Cassation. A fact which has been little spoken of, but which is not the less positive, is that within the last fortnight three other skeletons have been discovered in the wood of Tramey, the district where Dumollard was accustomed to get rid of his victims.

A MATRIMONIAL HOAX.

THE Manchester newspapers publish the details of a matrimonial hoax lately perpetrated upon a denizen of that busy city, where, and in the neighbourhood, this kind of thing seems to be a favourite source of amusement. It appears that on the 22nd of January a Manchester paper contained the following advertisement:—

"A young gentleman, possessing a well-established business, and realising a good income, wishes to correspond, with a view to matrimony, with a lady of prepossessing appearance, having some means at her own disposal. Age, twenty-one to twenty-six. The strictest secrecy will be observed, and none but real name and address attended to.—Address —."

"Miss Fanny Brendon," an "orphan, in uncontrolled possession of upwards of £100 a year," wrote from Chorley to say she thought the offer "might suit" her. The lone bachelor at once replied. "Affection and constancy," he wrote, "are the qualities I most esteem; and, should I find you possessing these inestimable qualities, I have no doubt we shall lead a happy and comfortable life together, as I am one of those that love sincerely. I never trifled with the affections of any young lady. Indeed, I look upon it as a great crime. As to my position, I have an extensive establishment, and have been in business since I was a boy. I have also an annuity for life, have no relations except an aged father, who has also an annuity, making him independent for life. My income altogether is about £500 per annum, and my business, a good and fashionable one, is steadily progressing." Of course "Fanny Brendon" was a myth—the creation of a number of wags at Chorley. Miss Brendon was in raptures, and sought an interview with Mr. —. He was no less eager for a sight of his intended bride, and it was arranged that he should be in Chorley at a certain hour, that he was to be dressed after a particular fashion, and that he was to call at the Red Lion Hotel. The rest of the story is thus told:—Wednesday arrived. Shortly before four o'clock, and before the whole of his intending tormentors were ready for an audience, he went to the Red Lion, where he called for a glass of port, and was ogled by numbers of wickedly-wise eyes, for the thing had oozed out, and was by this time (for his comfort) sadly too public; so he inquired for the landlady and asked if a private room had been engaged by a young lady. "Yes, Sir," said she. "Is your name Mr. —?" "Yes," replied our hero; "I have made an appointment to meet a young lady here on important business." Confidence, which had been nearly thrown from its throne by suspicion, was at once restored, and he was handed to the "private room." All was right. There he waited for half an hour, when some one gently knocked at the door. Supposing that his hazel-eyed "Fanny" was at hand, and at the very acme of joyous expectation, our adventurer bounded from his seat to receive her; but two gentlemen entered, who, to his utter horror and discomfiture, saluted him with "Oh, oh! Mr. —; so you're the party that has come here to see a young lady, are you?" Our knight errant, full of anger, demanded, "What's that to you? What do you want to know for?" And now, finding that he was "sold," made the best of his way to the door; but no! he must not go at that price. "Oh, don't be afraid," said the young gentlemen, "sit down, Mr. —; but he could not be so assured. By this time the thing was wide-spread, and the man in search of a wife was "on exhibition" at the Red Lion. In dropped one and another, and at last he was perforce escorted to the bar-parlour and introduced to the company there as "the gentleman from Manchester who had come to see Fanny." He vowed vengeance; they must not play their larks on him; that sort of thing might do in London or Liverpool, but it would not do for him. They said it would do capitally for Chorley; and he must, if he would come on such errands, take the consequences and stand a bottle of wine. He would not, for anybody but he, said he, "I know you all; I'll have you exposed in the Manchester papers; I'll have your names; you are respectable parties, and I'll have all your names published." They then coolly informed him that they had made arrangements for his folly to be fully reported; and then they, much to his chagrin, and without his interview with his Fanny, saw him off by the seven p.m. train. He was escorted through the town by nearly one hundred of the populace, and assailed all the way with loud cries of "How's Fanny?" "He would not bleed," "Look out for the papers," &c.; and it was with great difficulty that he succeeded at the station (and even then it was only by dint of running between the passengers and the luggage) in evading a shower of unpleasant missiles which had been reserved for him as a finale.

1, 'soa, maker.—J. WILSON, Glasgow, commission merchant.—J. M'C,
unfries

